

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 308.—VOL. 12.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1861.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

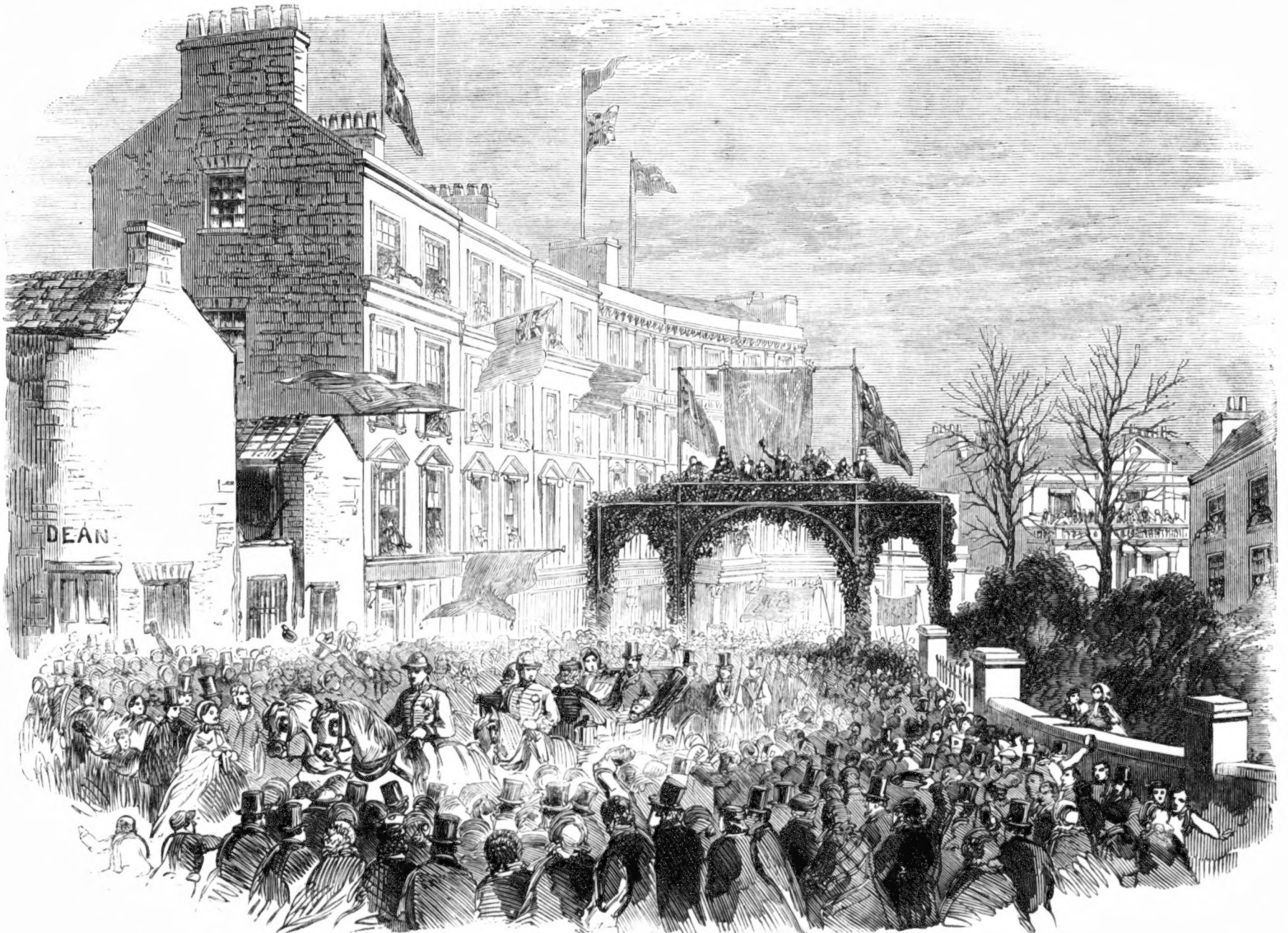
THE fall of Gaeta is the most important event that has happened in the history of the Italian War of Independence since the flight of the King of Naples. Such contradictory accounts of the state of the garrison and of the power of the fortress to hold out had been published that it was difficult not to attach some importance to the repeated statements of the reactionary party—that the Italians would find themselves at war with the Austrians before the place was taken, and that ultimately the siege would have to be raised. When Gaeta was besieged by Massena in 1806 the French Marshal was six months reducing it, and the Neapolitan Royalists have been asking whether more could be expected of Cialdini than of one of Napoleon's best Generals? At the moment of our writing no very full particulars of the surrender of Gaeta have reached us, but we know with what enthusiasm the intelligence of the main fact has been received in the chief Italian cities, and with what natural delight Victor Emmanuel has dwelt upon it—"as a King and as a soldier"—in his speech to the United Chambers. The Italians are now so much the stronger to attack the Austrians in Venetia; and it is more probable than ever that this attack will be made, and without much further delay.

On the other hand, the chances of a rising in Hungary seem somewhat to have diminished. The great nobles and landed proprietors of Hungary desire, equally with those of Bohemia, the maintenance of the Austrian empire. They believe that, if the Confederation of States known collectively as Austria should be broken up, the various component nationalities would be absorbed, one by one, by Russia; and they argue that not only all true Hungarian patriots, but all who value the liberty of Europe, are interested in the continued existence of a strong Power like Austria on the Danube. Count Szechen (one of the most influential men in Hungary, and the leader of the Conservative, as distinguished from the Separatist, party in that country) declared repeatedly, during the recent delibera-

tions in the Reichsrath, that "Hungary was necessary to the existence of Austria, and that Austria was necessary to the existence of Hungary," though he and all his followers are naturally inclined to insist upon the observance of the terms upon which Hungary became united to the Austrian Crown; or, rather, it is the principle of the union that they would have observed; for to go back to the exact stipulations of the original compact would, in the present day, be next to impossible. Neither are the Hungarian chiefs unreasonable enough to demand the re-establishment of their ancient Constitution, which was the most aristocratic ever devised, and which confined electoral privileges to those of noble descent, without, however, excluding those of the basest occupation, provided only that they belonged to the dominant or Magyar race. To abolish a Constitution founded upon such a system as this (however little right the Austrian Emperor may have had to do so) was scarcely a greater injury to Hungary than to put an end to serfdom—a measure for which the Hungarian peasant had to thank, not his native proprietors, but the central Government at Vienna. In looking at the history of the connection of Hungary with Austria it is impossible not to see that without it Hungary would, in all probability, have fallen under the dominion of the Turks, and it may yet owe its independence as regards Russia to the fact of its forming an integral part of the warlike Austrian empire. The amateurs of revolution, however, seem to be of opinion that, whether or not the Hungarians can get a fair measure of liberty from the Austrians, Hungary ought to be induced to rise in insurrection, if only for the benefit of Venetia, and the Italians generally. But what becomes of the principle of non-intervention if Austria is attacked in Hungary simply that she may lose her hold in Venetia? And if any of Austria's German territory should be at the same time violated will not Germany be bound to intervene? It has been resolved by a majority of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies that it is not the interest of Prussia or of Germany to oppose the unification

of Italy; but it is clearly the interest and the duty of both to resist any infringement of the rights of the German Confederation.

Looking beyond Austria, we find the vast empire which during the last four or five years has been occupying itself almost exclusively with internal reforms on the eve of liberating its serfs. This important step was finally resolved upon by the present Emperor immediately after his accession to the throne, or, rather, it is said that the task was absolutely imposed upon him by Nicholas on his deathbed. At the present moment nearly one-half of the peasants in Russia are serfs, and, as such, are bound either to work three days a week for their proprietors, or to pay them an annual sum (which, by liberal masters, is usually fixed at ten roubles, or thirty-three shillings) for the privilege of seeking work wherever they please. In addition to the ten million *souls* (that is to say, male serfs) belonging to private individuals there are upwards of nine million Crown peasants (counting males only) who pay ten roubles a year to the Government for their passports, and have a full right to all they earn or produce. All these peasants, whether the serfs of private individuals or direct taxpayers to the Crown, possess a house or hut, a stable, and a piece of ground; and the delay in the emancipation has been caused, in a great measure, by the difficulty of deciding whether, and, if so, on what terms, the peasants shall continue to keep possession of land for the use of which they will no longer pay, either in money or in labour. The Russian Liberal party maintain that the peasants have an absolute title to the land hitherto set apart for their benefit on every estate, whereas a large number of the great proprietors argue that they can have no right to cultivate it unless, in place of the compulsory labour now about to be abolished, they make certain fixed money payments in the form of rent. The St. Petersburg letters which every now and then find their way into our journals give us no information on this important point. All who have studied the serf question in Russia are aware that the peasants will not value their eman-



RECEPTION OF THE NEW LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF THE ISLE OF MAN.—THE PROCESSION PASSING UP PROSPECT HILL, DOUGLAS.

cipation unless they are emancipated with their land. At present a Russian serf is property, but also he is a proprietor; and the great majority of them would rather continue to be the former if otherwise it were certain that they would also cease to be the latter. The *Times*, in an article on this subject, smiles at a Russian writer having stated (as he is said to have done in a recently-published work on Russia) that the serfs, on their liberation, would not like to find themselves "in the position of Irishmen." Irish peasants, however, have the reputation of being a ragged, half-starved, miserable race; and this is what the more liberal Russians are afraid their peasants may become if they are freed without the land necessary for their decent maintenance. But, if the serfs are emancipated with sufficient land to render them independent of the proprietors of estates, is it not possible and probable that a large number of estates will be thrown out of cultivation? The question is not an easy one to solve satisfactorily, but, one way or another, we shall hear of its solution, and in a few weeks, or even days.

In any case the emancipation of the serfs will be a great step in advance for Russia. The proprietors will scarcely suffer by it, inasmuch as all classes will in future be allowed to purchase land, which will evidently have the effect of increasing its value; it cannot but improve the moral (even more than the material) position of the peasants; and it will tend to the formation of what has hitherto been so much wanted in Russia—a respectable middle class.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

In September last Francis Pigott, Esq., M.P. for Reading was appointed to the Lieutenant-governorship of the Isle of Man, then vacant by the retirement of the Hon. Charles Hope, who for fifteen years had filled the office.

Mr. Pigott, accompanied by his lady and Captain Pigott, of the 16th Lancers, their son, arrived in the island on Saturday, Nov. 10. On Monday they visited the capital of the island. Here the reception accorded them was extremely enthusiastic. The horses of their carriage were unharnessed, and a number of the inhabitants drew the carriage to the residence of the Deputy Governor; the volunteers presented arms, and, escorted by the Deputy-Governor, the first Deemster, and the volunteer rifles the party proceeded to the Court-house, where the oath of allegiance and supremacy, and the oath of the Governor of the Isle of Man, were administered by the Deputy-Governor to Mr. Pigott.

The Lieutenant-Governor on the 24th of November visited the town of Peel, where his reception was altogether the most successful given him by any of the island towns. On the 1st of December he proceeded to Ramsey, where an injudicious introduction of party politics into the congratulatory address marred the day's proceedings. Having received the congratulations of the members of the Legislature and addresses from the inhabitants of the four towns, the rifle volunteers, and others, his Excellency returned to England to take leave of friends and relatives and to bring over his family.

His Excellency having expressed his intention of returning to the island on the 14th of February, a largely-attended meeting of the tradesmen of Douglas was held to arrange the programme of the welcoming proceedings. Triumphant arches, processions, and bands of music were projected, and tickets issued for a monster social gathering, to be held under the tents erected within the Castle Mona grounds on the evening of the 14th. About noon the shops were closed, and, favoured by propitious weather, almost the whole population of the town—augmented by large numbers from the country—poured into the streets, attired in holiday costume, and apparently bent on according a warm welcome to the Lieutenant-Governor on his arrival. The streets presented an unprecedentedly animated appearance, such as had never been witnessed in the town before.

The benefit societies of the town who were to take part in the procession marched to their positions on the Quay and in the Market-place; and the Douglas Artillery Corps took up their station as a guard of honour near the Packet Office, at the place appointed for his Excellency's disembarkation.

Among the gentlemen in waiting for his Excellency were S. Wilson, Esq., High Bailiff; Major Pollock, J.P.; Captain Murray, H.K.; P. Killey, Esq., H.K.; Jas. Burman, Esq., Secretary to his Excellency; Lieut. Lindsey, of the Coastguard; S. Harris, Esq., Chairman of the Commissioners; Wm. Gell, Esq., one of the directors of the Steam-packet Company; and the Rev. Messrs. Hawley, Gray, T. Cain, and Snapp.

At about three a signal-gun from Douglas Head conveyed the intelligence that the packet was in sight, and shortly after repeated salutes from the packet and the shore announced her nearer approach. Exactly at three o'clock the Tynwald, gaily decorated, steamed up the harbour, and was moored opposite the Steam-packet Office. His Worship the High Bailiff, Major Pollock, Mr. Burman, Mr. Harris, Mr. Gell, and other gentlemen, then went on board to greet his Excellency, who shortly afterwards made his appearance on deck, and was loudly cheered. He then landed, the Artillery Corps presenting arms, the crowd cheering, and the bands playing.

A procession was then formed—first the societies of Foresters, Old Fellows, the Artificers' Society of Douglas, with their bands; then the carriages, and finally the Volunteers.

The procession, which occupied twenty-five minutes in passing, proceeded along the North Quay, up Bank-hill, along A'holl-street, up Prospect-hill, along Finch road and Marina-road to Castle Mona. The whole line of route was thickly thronged with enthusiastic spectators, who loudly cheered his Excellency as he passed, and whose congratulations he frequently acknowledged. Our illustration represents the procession passing up Prospect-hill.

On the arrival of the procession at Castle Mona gates the societies formed in double line, and, allowing the carriage to pass up the centre, entered the grounds of the castle, where his Excellency was received by a guard of honour formed of detachments from the Douglas and Ramsey companies of Volunteer Rifles. The riflemen presented arms as he passed, the carriage being stopped while his Excellency repeatedly acknowledged the salute. The societies, after marching past, dispersed.

In the evening a monster tea party took place on the lawn in front of Castle Mona. Two thousand five hundred people were assembled in one tent, ingeniously composed of two marquees. The Lieutenant-Governor addressed the company in the course of the evening; other speeches followed, and the day ended in a very agreeable manner.

DEVOTIONS AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—Noticing the special services at Westminster Abbey, the *Post* observes that on Sunday evening no sooner had the last notes of the musical part of the service died away than "upwards of a hundred persons, undeniably of the upper classes, rose and left the abbey, producing a noise and confusion which rendered the first ten minutes of the rev. gentleman's discourse inaudible to three-quarters of his audience." The *Post* adds:—"What a degradation—what a baneful example—how unworthy the actors, the place, and the occasion! Cannot these persons forego a little amusement (for under such circumstances they can come only for amusement) just for one day in the week? Can they not liberally take tickets for Exeter Hall, if they must needs get down to the theatre for Handel and Haydn, instead of being a little more scrupulous in the expense of disturbing the more serious thoughts of those who have no other opportunity for their devotions?"

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Conference on the Syrian question held a sitting on Tuesday. It is said that M. Thouvenel declared France ready to withdraw her troops at the time fixed, but threw the responsibility of the consequences on the other Powers.

The *Patrie* and the *Pays* say:—"The latest news from Cochinchina announces that fresh persecutions had been commenced against the Christians."

M. Mirès, the great capitalist, has been arrested on charges of breach of trust, swindling, and forgery. It is rumoured that several persons of standing are more or less implicated in the affair.

The French Government has under consideration several suggestions made by Marshal the Duc de Malakoff for the organisation of the Government of Algeria. The Duke is said to have proposed the creation of two Chambers, or of a single one, the members of which should be named partly by the Government and partly by election, and whose duties should be to vote the laws and regulations which interest the colony.

A direct transaction has been arranged between the Imperial Bank of Russia and the Bank of France for the exchange of 30,000,000*fr.* in gold for the same amount in silver.

SPAIN.

In the sitting of the Spanish Congress, on the 13th inst., a question was put to the Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the rumoured dismissal of the Spanish Ambassador at Mexico. The answer was that no strictly official information had yet been received; but that the necessary measures should be taken to ensure respect being paid to the Spanish flag in any event which might arise. The Spanish journals are much occupied with comment upon this affair, which is looked upon as indicating a possible collision between Spain and Mexico.

Spain and Morocco have agreed that the Moors shall immediately complete the payment of 200,000,000*fr.* The customs of Tangiers and Mogadore are to be hypothecated to the Spaniards as guarantees for the payment of the balance of the indemnity, and the evacuation of Tetuan will take place at a fixed date.

PRUSSIA.

On receiving the deputation which on the 12th inst. presented the address in reply to the Royal Speech the King said:—

I have on various occasions expressed the principles according to which I am resolved to exercise the power which God has intrusted to me. The country entertains no doubt on this subject.

I firmly rely that the National Parliament will second me in the accomplishment of my intentions, in the sense of the intact maintenance of the power of my Crown, for that is necessary for the real welfare of the country.

I hope that your labours, which will shortly commence, will bring to a satisfactory solution the important projects submitted to you by my Government. We shall introduce reforms into many institutions on legal grounds; there cannot be any doubt in that respect.

Union is strength, and, as it is necessary that we should be strong, we must be united. This is true as regards Prussia, as well as her position towards Germany. My efforts in this respect have been crowned with the happiest results.

I know that my people will show me inviolable fidelity in good times as in bad times, and I heartily welcome the reiterated promise of such fidelity on the part of the Chamber.

AUSTRIA.

Europe is on the eve of a formidable event—the proclamation of martial law in Hungary. On the 14th inst. at Vienna, according to the *Cologne Gazette*, there was no longer doubt or hesitation; an army of 80,000 men was moving towards the frontier, and various regiments—Bohemian, Tyrolean, and Italian levies—were converging on Presburg. All the Hungarian troops were in march to the extreme corners of the empire, so as to be kept aloof.

Orders have been sent from Vienna to Trieste to arm at once all the sailing-vessels of the Austrian Navy. They are to be stationed at Zara, Spalato, Ragusa, Fiume, and Cattaro; and twelve gun-boats are to be sent to the Gulf of Guarnero to watch the coast.

From Pesth we learn that the Prince Primate had accepted from the Obergespänne the duty of laying before the Emperor their petition for the re-establishment of the laws of 1848, and the convocation of the Diet at that town. The Court Chancellor Vay, in replying to the Obergespänne, had observed that the diploma of October created a mutual obligation, of which the King of Hungary had faithfully redeemed his part, and that it now remained for the country to fulfil its portion by supporting the functionaries of the Government.—The sub-committee of the Juxta Curia Conference proposes the abrogation of the Austrian penal law and the Austrian rules with regard to criminal trials, and recommends the immediate introduction of the criminal code of 1844, with the regulations for trial by jury, and the re-establishment of the laws of 1848 regarding the press. The Conference demands the immediate re-establishment of the Hungarian laws relating to letters of exchange.

The municipality of Buda has resolved upon excluding all non-Hungarian residents in that city from the exercise of electoral rights.

The municipality of Pesth has forwarded an address to the Emperor demanding the dismissal of the Ban of Croatia, and the appointment of a Hungarian in his place.

Fiume is not in Istria, but it is at Fiume the Government expect Garibaldi to land, and rouse at once Istria, Dalmatia, and Hungary. Accordingly, a telegram announces that Fiume has been placed in a state of siege.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Up to the 29th ult. no executions had taken place in Syria. Great storms have been raging in the Black Sea. Two vessels of the French packet service were wrecked near Trebizond. The crews were saved.

A meeting of the Hasnâ Tavili holders has been held at Constantinople. It was resolved to address protests through the Embassies against the renewal of these bonds. They are to be renewed for fourteen years.

AMERICA.

Texas, by the vote of the Convention which was appointed, has seceded. This is another State out of the Union. The President has rejected the ultimatum offered by South Carolina in regard to the surrender of Fort Sumter, and an attack upon that stronghold was anticipated. The letters for some time past from Charleston have represented the fire-eaters as being in a state of anxiety to capture Fort Sumter; and the Governor, by his evident desire to settle the question peaceably and to avoid coming to blows with the Federal Government, has exposed himself to the animadversions of an unreasoning multitude.

The Peace Convention held by the invitation of Virginia had commenced its sittings at Washington, but the nature of its proceedings was unknown. Only a portion of the Free States were represented in the Conference, and the meeting was not expected to have any practical result. The basis of settlement recommended by Virginia is the protection of slavery in the territory south of 36 deg. 30 min. during the period of its territorial government, and the right of transit for slaves through the non-slaveholding States and Territories.

Mr. Seward gave another expression to his views in regard to the condition of the country on the 31st ult., on the occasion of the presentation by him to the Senate of the monster petition from the citizens of New York praying for some adjustment of the present difficulties. The petition was signed by 63,000 persons, and would, Mr. Seward said, reach three times across the Senate Chamber. His remarks were conciliatory, and recommended a resort to all legitimate methods of adjustment. He closed by advising the calling of a National Convention, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution,

at which a perfect understanding could be arrived at, either for perpetual union or for peaceable separation.

Some New York capitalists were endeavouring to put the screw on by writing to the Convention that unless a compromise was adopted they would do nothing to uphold the financial credit of the incoming Administration.

While these endeavours to effect a compromise are being made at Washington, we find Mr. Howell Cobb, the President of the Seceded States' Convention, telling that Assembly that dissolution was now "a fixed, irrevocable fact—perfect, complete, and perpetual." This Convention had met at Montgomery, Alabama, for the purpose of organising the new Southern Government. The Senators for Louisiana had both taken their farewell of the Senate. They declared the intention of their State to assume a just proportion of the national debt; to pay anything which may be due from it on account of the forts and arsenals which have been seized; and to respect the free navigation of the Mississippi. They both declared that secession was the unalterable policy of the extreme South, and expressed a hope that it might be effected amicably.

Advices from Montgomery affirm that the Southern Congress was about to levy an export duty of one cent per pound on cotton.

The proceedings which have been taken in our Court of Queen's Bench in the case of Anderson, the fugitive slave, have excited no little stir in Canada. The right of the Westminster Court to exercise jurisdiction over the Canadian Court of Queen's Bench is disputed by the colonial lawyers, and a conflict of authorities is very likely to take place. On the same day that Chief Justice Cockburn's writ arrived, a barrister applied to Chief Justice Draper, in the Court of Common Pleas, for a writ of habeas corpus to bring the fugitive slave before that tribunal, with a view to obtain its opinion on the question at issue. Mr. Draper granted the writ, and here our information ends. Some of the New York journals have published "sensation" articles representing Canada as being almost on the verge of rebellion in consequence of the act of usurpation committed by the English Judges. Indeed, the *New York Herald* has gone so far in this conviction as to predict the speedy annexation of Canada to the northern confederacy.

INDIA.

The intelligence from India is gratifying. All India is described as occupied with the arts of peace. Lord Canning is holding durbars in Central India, to which the Rajahs and other chiefs repair. The Governor of Bombay is also engaged in a tour through his presidency, in order to make himself acquainted with its condition and wants. The opposition to the income tax was dying out, and it was being paid with scarcely an instance of resort to the power of distraint. There is, however, one dark shadow to the picture—famine was raging in several of the districts of the north-west provinces and the Punjab. Every blade of grass had been dried up, and four millions of people were totally dependent on charity. The Government was exerting itself, by undertaking public works, to lessen the calamity.

AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

OPENING OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT.

The Italian Parliament was opened on Monday by the King in person.

His Majesty, in his speech, said:—

"Italy, almost entirely free and united, confides in your wisdom, and it is on you devolves the task of her organisation. You will establish the greatest administrative liberty, taking care, at the same time, that her unity be protected. Public opinion is favourable to our national tendencies. The Emperor of the French, although assuring to us the benefits of non-intervention, has deemed it fitting to recall his Envoy. This act has excited our deep regret, without, however, affecting our gratitude. At Magenta and Solferino France and Italy have riveted ties of amity which will be indissoluble. England, the ancient home of liberty, has recognised our right to dispose of ourselves. We shall preserve an imperishable remembrance of the support which her good offices have afforded us."

"An illustrious Prince having ascended the throne of Prussia, I sent my Ambassador in order to testify to him our sympathy for his person and for the German nation."

"You will assist my Government in completing the armaments."

"In the consciousness of its strength the kingdom of Italy will be able to follow the counsels of prudence."

"My voice was once raised with boldness, but it is as wise to wait at the right time as it is to dare at the right time."

"Devoted to Italy, I have risked my crown for her sake; but no one has the right to risk the existence and the destinies of a nation."

"The taking of a formidable fortress has worthily crowned the exploits of the army and navy. Thus they, as well as the volunteers, have acquired a renown which has given the country a just confidence in itself, and it is with pleasure that I express to the first Parliament of Italy the joy which, as King and soldier, I feel on this account."

NAPLES—SARDINIA.

The Sardinians, who are now in full possession of Gaeta, are actively employed in clearing it of its ruins. The city suffered enormously from the bombardment, and, in addition to the other horrors of the siege, typhus fever broke out, and several hundred of the garrison were found by the Sardinians suffering from the malady. Cialdini and his army assisted at a mass for the repose of the dead.

The number of troops who were made prisoners at Gaeta was 11,000. The Sardinians found between 700 and 800 cannons and 60,000 muskets.

King Francis went to Rome, accompanied by three of his Generals. It is stated that, despite the fall of Gaeta, the inexorable and immovable old General Fergola, who has held his place so long in the citadel of Messina, still declines to surrender the garrison. The General is, we believe, considerably over eighty years of age. We trust that the venerable warrior will listen to reason, and save the Sardinians the necessity of proceeding to any uncomfortable measures of coercion. Admiral Persano and General Cialdini have left for Messina. General Mezzacapo, with a body of troops, has proceeded towards Civitella, on the Tronto. Both fortresses will be attacked immediately if their commanders refuse to surrender.

During the fêtes at Naples to celebrate the fall of Gaeta a mob attacked the palace of the Archbishop, and smashed the windows of the Spanish Consul's residence. With these exceptions, the rejoicings appear to have been conducted with propriety.

Francis II. has fixed on Bavaria as his place of retirement. In a few days the ex-King and his Queen will leave Rome for the Bavarian dominions.

The *Nazionale* announces the discovery of a conspiracy in favour of Prince Murat, and states that the trial had commenced.

Reports are current that the proclamation of the kingdom of Italy will not for the present be communicated in an official manner to several Governments.

The *Courrier de Cremona* gives the fearful news that the warlike Duke of Modena meditates—"meditates" is the word—the reconquest of his duchy, and has made preparations to invade the Emilian provinces at the head of an army of 18,000 men.

THE LAST DAYS AT GAETA.

The *Moniteur* publishes the following:—

It appears that the bombardment on the 11th and 12th was of extreme violence. The explosion of the powder-magazines had rendered the rifled cannon useless; but the fortress still replied with the other guns. The Neapolitan artillerymen displayed the greatest bravery; twice they silenced the guns of the Batterie des Capucins.

On the 13th, although negotiations had been partially opened, the bombardment continued with the same violence; two batteries of the fortress were demolished, and then the capitulation was signed. It was the fortress that fired the last cannon-shot. It appears that from the demand to sur-

render to the moment the capitulation was signed the Piedmontese threw 30,000 shells into the fortress.

On the 14th the Sardinian troops occupied one-half of the town at eight a.m. At the same time the Queen, the Princes, the Royal household, and the foreign Ministers embarked on board *La Mouette*. The King passed the Neapolitan troops in review, who wept as they presented arms to him. An immense crowd was assembled, and the population shed tears. The King was very pale from emotion. Royal honours were paid to Francis II. as he embarked on board *La Mouette*. As the vessel left a salute of twenty-one guns was fired and the flags were lowered from the batteries, while the garrison shouted "Long live the King!" though in presence of the Piedmontese, already in possession.

THE PAPAL STATES.

In Rome a demonstration of public rejoicing took place when the news of the fall of Gaeta became known. Shouts of "Viva Victor Emmanuel!" and "The unity of Italy for ever!" were general. It is even affirmed that some priests were observed to join in the demonstration and cheer with the rest. Finally, some French patrols requested the crowd to disperse, and the request was complied with.

The *Journal of Rome* denies that an arrangement is to be made between Rome and Piedmont.

On the 15th inst. the Papal Zouaves invaded Sardinian territory, but they were repulsed by the Sardinian volunteers.

FRANCE, ROME, AND ITALY.

A PAMPHLET from the pen (nominally) of M. de la Guernonière has been published with the permission of Count de Persigny. It is needless to add that this pamphlet embodies the views of the French Emperor.

M. de la Guernonière enters into a retrospective history of the last twelve months; relates how Parma, Modena, and Tuscany were lost; and how, after the "preliminaries" of Villafranca, the Emperor wrote to the Pope ("au lendemain de sa victoire"), declaring "his constant solicitude for the interests of the Church."

And how did the Court of Rome act? Instead of placing confidence in the conqueror of Solferino, it replied by hesitations and adjournments. M. de la Guernonière then makes a sort of apology for the policy of France after the treaty of peace, and quotes the despatches of M. Thouvenot and the Duc de Grammont to show that France had at heart the maintenance of the "temporal power of the Pope"; but we will quote the original:—"Pour se rendre compte de la bonne foi avec laquelle le Gouvernement de l'Empereur poursuivait une solution qui pût conserver l'autorité temporelle du Pape," &c., but the Roman Court declined everything.

"Le Pape ne transigera jamais," such was the reply given by Cardinal Antonelli.

Thus the Court of Rome had refused everything. It had declined a vicariat over the Romagna as an attack upon its sovereignty, which no longer existed in that province; it declined a collective guarantee of the Catholic Powers for the integrity of the territory which remained to it after the war; it rejected, as a humiliation, the offer of a pious tribute from Princes recognising the spiritual sovereignty of the Holy Father; it rejected a body guard provided by all nations faithful to the Holy See. Did the Court of Rome wish to remain a passive spectator of events in resignation and contemplation, hoping for the hour of retribution? This might have been understood. There is an austere virtue in resignation which ennobles misfortune and commands respect. But resignation never entered the hearts of the councillors of Pius IX.

M. de la Guernonière devotes three or four pages to General Lamoricière and the invasion of the Papal States by Sardinia. The Emperor Napoleon, he says, expressed his disapproval of that act of aggression by withdrawing his Ambassador from Turin, and by increasing the French garrison at Rome. By so doing the Emperor gave a striking proof of devotion to the "Holy Father!"

But if we simply translate pages 60 and 61 we shall give the whole substance of the pamphlet, or rather the part corresponding with the title—"France, Rome, and Italy!" They read thus:—

But, if Italy is free, she is not constituted, and the obstacle to her organisation is Rome. As long as the lamentable antagonism exists which has been created between the elements of strength, the union of which responds to so many interests, Italy and the Papacy will not be able to balance themselves. Let them unite, and from that alliance will arise their common greatness.

It is as difficult to imagine Italy without a Pope as to imagine a Pope without Italy. They are connected by tradition, by history, by the universal respect of all Catholic nations towards the Head of the Church. When the Emperor went to war with Austria his intention was to re-establish that precious union. On the day upon which that great idea is accomplished we shall behold the Papacy reassuming in modern society an authority on a par with its origin and mission. We shall behold Italy adding to the political strength of her independence the moral strength of that quite exceptional position which makes her the land of spiritual sovereignty, the dominion of which extends to the extremity of the world.

Meantime, and despite all that has taken place—despite so many refusals to the generous intervention of France—despite so many acts of injustice which have not shaken his devotion, the Emperor, we are convinced of it, will leave his sword at Rome to protect the safety of the Holy Father. Faithful to his double duty as Sovereign elected by the national will and as Eldest Son of the Church, he cannot sacrifice Italy to the Court of Rome, nor the Papacy to the Revolution. Unmoved like the conscience and the rights of a great people, he will await with patience the approaching hour when the Pontifical Government, enlightened as regards dangerous allies who have imposed their support upon it, will know how to distinguish between those who have done everything to ruin it, and those who have done everything to save it.

THE DANISH QUESTION.

ADVICES from Berlin state that the Danish Minister at the Court of Prussia has received orders from his Government to make overtures to the Prussian Cabinet which may lead to the amicable solution of the question of the Duchies. It is added that, in the event of M. de Schleinitz finding the new propositions satisfactory enough to open a negotiation, the German Diet would not raise any difficulties, as it tacitly accepts the direction of Prussia.

The Estates of Holstein have been convoked for the 6th of March.

THE PATTERSON-BONAPARTE CASE.

At the sitting of the Tribunal of the First Instance on Friday week the President, M. Benoit Champy, delivered judgment, preceded by a long string of "considerations." The Tribunal finds that conclusive prejudicial objection exists to the demand before the Tribunal. It decrees *Mme. Patterson* (Elizabeth) and *Jerome Bonaparte*, her son, not receivable in their demand, and dismisses it. The plaintiff sentenced to pay the costs.

The judgment proceeds entirely upon the ground that the question was conclusively adjudicated upon by the Emperor's family council last year, and abstains from pronouncing any judicial opinion upon the merits of the case. It is a curious circumstance in the history of this *cause célèbre* that the *Moniteur* of Jan. 19, 1861, made a merit of Prince Napoleon's submission to the ordinary courts of law. The following are the words used by the *Moniteur*:—"H. H. Prince Napoleon has not wished to object to the competence of the ordinary tribunals by invoking the special jurisdiction of the Imperial family."

The case, narrowed as it is by the course taken by the Court, and the damaging admissions of the Public Minister, M. Mervilleux, as to the law of the case, will afford a splendid field for M. Berryer when he brings it before the Court of Appeal.

INTERESTING DISCOVERY.—At the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries on Thursday week a very interesting discovery was announced by Mr. W. H. Black, F.S.A., the well-known paleographer and chronologist. It is that of the will and administration to the effects of that great artist Hans Holbein, who, it has always been asserted, died in England, and as late as the year 1533, though no certain trace of him has been found for many years before. It is now proved that he died in the year 1533, four years before the death of Henry VIII. This discovery will affect the reputation of many pictures that have been attributed to him, particularly the great picture at Bridewell Hospital, of King Edward VI. founding the London Hospital, in which Holbein was said to have introduced his own portrait.

PROJECT OF A PERMANENT CONFERENCE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

UNDER the above heading the *Northern Bee* of St. Petersburg publishes the following despatch:—

"According to accounts from Constantinople of Feb. 7, France, as Russia had previously done, has addressed to the Turkish Government a note demanding the meeting at Constantinople of a permanent conference. The notes of the two Powers are almost identical in expression. The Porte replies that it is preparing reforms."

The Russian journal observes of the above:—

This despatch is very important. It is a new phase of the Eastern question. It is not Servia only, or Moldo-Wallachia, or Syria, but Turkey herself that it is sought to place under the protection of the great Powers. The permanent conference proposed by Russia and France will be the last resort for all the Christian subjects of the Porte in their complaints against the Government of the Sultan. The control of Europe will thus extend over the whole of the empire of Abdul-Medjid. As we see, the Porte opposes the scheme, but the thing is inevitable.

The initiative in this matter belongs to the Russian Envoy at the Sultan's Court, Prince Lobanov-Rostovski. We have already stated that the Prince had addressed a protest to the Turkish Government against the incorrect statements made by the Grand Vizier, Kiprisli Pacha, in the account of his journey through the Christian provinces of Turkey. As the accounts received by the Russian Minister, and the investigations of the secretary of the Russian Embassy at Adrianople, were altogether at variance with those of the Vizier, Prince Lobanov-Rostovski annexed to his reply an energetic note, demanding the convocation at Constantinople of a permanent conference, composed of Plenipotentiaries of the great Powers, who shall occupy themselves exclusively with the fate of the Christian populations of Turkey. The French Ambassador, M. de Lavalette, has, as we have seen, supported the demand of the Russian Envoy.

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE SERFS.

A LETTER from St. Petersburg dated Feb. 10 says:—

"The moment is close at hand—and I am happy to announce it—when the emancipation of the serfs will be an accomplished fact. The proclamation will be issued on the 3rd of March next, the anniversary of the accession to the throne of Alexander II., whose reign will be for ever illustrious by this measure of social justice."

"Thus more than 20,000,000 of Christian souls will, at one and the same hour, have ceased to be a property. Yesterday a solemn sitting of the Council of the Empire was held on the subject, and much curiosity and anxiety prevailed to know what it would lead to. There were a thousand different rumours this morning; but during the day well-informed persons have assured me that the date I have above given is that fixed for the act of liberation. The emotion created by this news throughout the empire is immense. Since writing the above I have received the following from so high a quarter that I can guarantee its correctness without reserve:—

"The Council met at eleven a.m., under the presidency of the Emperor. The sitting lasted till half-past six in the evening. The first fourteen articles of the project presented by the High Central Committee were discussed."

"The Emperor addressed the members of the Council, requesting them to speak their minds plainly and without reserve, and declared his wish that all might be terminated on the 3rd of March. He said he should not preside again at the Council, but should be informed daily of their decisions."

"The Grand Duke Constantine, General Gagarine, M. Mouravieff, and General Ignatieff (G. verner-General of St. Petersburg, and father of General Ignatieff of China celebrity) also addressed the Council."

"The first fourteen articles contain only a summary of principles. The discussion, though lively, has as yet only led to one alteration in the project—the annulling of the 'Volosty pravlenie,' agency, or communal direction, the members of which were to be elected by the peasants, a power which is to be replaced by the organisation of a signorial magistracy."

"The next sitting is fixed for Monday, and the Council will meet four times a week."

MR. COBDEN AND HIS SERVICES.

MR. COBDEN has sent the following letter—which speaks for itself—to Mr. Dalglish, M.P.:—

Algiers, Feb. 13, 1861.

My dear Sir,—The newspapers which have just reached me contain a circular, issued by a committee in Glasgow, bearing your signature as convener, inviting subscriptions to a testimonial fund in acknowledgment of my "recent eminent services."

Whilst I appreciate most cordially the friendly motive which must have prompted the gentlemen whose names appear on the committee to take this step without my consent or knowledge, I must beg them to allow me very respectfully to decline their proffered kindness. I drew upon the Government for my expenses during the time I was in Paris, and have therefore incurred no pecuniary sacrifice for which I am entitled to reimbursement. As for the services which I rendered in connection with the treaty, they were a labour of love, for which I would be painful to me to accept compensation in any form, or from any quarter. Reiterating my thanks for your kind intentions, Believe me, yours very truly,

Robt. Dalglish, Esq., M.P.

RIC. COBDEN.

ENGLAND AS IT IS.—A. M. Kervigan has just published a work, in two volumes, entitled "England as it is," the result, as he tells the world in its preface, of his observations during a sixteen years' residence in that country. We extract from a highly favourable review of his performance in the *Gazette de France* the following specimen of the accuracy of this gentleman's observations:—"The administration of justice in England is the worst in the world. The Judges, generally ignorant men, are always liable to dismissal; they are dependent at once upon the chances of election and the caprice of power."

EARTHQUAKE AT MALTA.—On the 9th of February at noon a severe shock of earthquake was felt at Malta, which lasted nearly a minute. The motion was horizontal, and attended by a loud rumbling and also a crackling noise. The wind was from the south-south-east. Many of the inhabitants of the four cities rushed to the streets and open spaces, and there remained until about two in the morning, when, by order of the Roman Catholic Bishop, the churches, as announced by the noisy ringing of bells, were thrown open. To these the most devout thronged, to offer up thanksgiving to the Almighty that no loss of life had occurred. A wing of the Governor's Palace and some few houses in *La Valletta* received slight damage in their walls, and some dilapidated tenements in the country also suffered, but none seriously.

AUSTRIA AND THE FALL OF GAETA.—The Austrian journals dilate upon the consequences of the fall of Gaeta as regards Austria. The *Austrian Gazette* observes that the definitive pacification of Southern Italy puts 100,000 men at the disposal of the Piedmontese Government. "The fall of Gaeta," says this journal, "must necessarily react upon the Roman question, and France, pressed upon by England and Sardinia, cannot do otherwise than abandon the Pope, as it has abandoned Francis II. We must to prevent Piedmont from declaring war upon Austria on the day on which the Italian Parliament, from the top of the Quirinal, decrees such a war." If France has promised to observe neutrality in the event of a Piedmontese attack on Austria, and in case of Austria not having the support of Germany, on the other hand, has not M. de Schleinitz declared in the Chamber of Deputies at Berlin that Prussia has entered into no engagement with Austria relative to Venice? "Thus," continues the *Gazette*, "Austria will find herself alone in the contest with Italy; and, though she may have nothing to fear from Italy alone, she has much to apprehend from the allies that Italy would find in the eastern provinces of the empire." Another journal of Vienna, the *Ost Deutsche Post*, betrays still greater anxiety.

STRENGTH OF THE ARMY.—A Parliamentary return states that the strength of the Army on the 1st of April, 1857, was 9881 sergeants, and 143,941 rank and file and drummers; on the 1st of April, 1858, the numbers were respectively 10,400 and 148,535; on the 1st of April, 1859, they were 11,261 and 159,274; and in the course of the year ending the 1st of April, 1860, there was an increase to strength of 812 sergeants and 9141 rank and file. During that year 27,898 recruits enlisted, besides which there were 1275 volunteers from the militia; 2383 men were discharged on account of the expiration of their service (about half of them after about twenty years' service); but 237 were re-enlisted within six months after discharge, and 1191 did not take their discharge, but re-engaged at the expiration of twelve or ten years' limited service; 4788 men died; 5191 deserters; but 1833 deserters were rejoined to the Army; 4945 were discharged for disability; 1838 by purchase.

THE PROVINCES.

BERWICK ELECTIONS.—The long inquiry before the Berwick Bribery Commissioners has produced a blue-book of 548 folio pages. The Commissioners go back to what a witness terms "the olden time," when there was a practice of paying head-money to the voters, "which went by the name of 'gooseberries'." They come down, however, immediately to the election of 1833, to which no suspicion of corruption attaches; but the purity on that occasion is attributed to the fear of ulterior consequences, as the election of 1832 had just been set aside for bribery. Concerning the election of 1837, when Captain Gordon, the Conservative member, was for the first time a candidate, but then unsuccessful, the Commissioners state that there was no evidence to warrant them in concluding that Captain Gordon's election was not, so far as he was personally concerned, legitimately conducted, and that, though he presented a petition charging bribery against one of his opponents, he states that he failed to discover any cases which would enable him to proceed with the charge. Captain Gordon's subsequent proceedings are well known—his staying often at Berwick, building a church, giving away money, and his employing one McGill to distribute considerable sums for the purpose (as McGill described it) of maintaining and increasing his influence at a future election. At the election of 1859 Captain Gordon and Mr. Earle were returned. The Commissioners report that bribery was committed, and that Captain Gordon was privy to and cognisant of it, but that Mr. Earle and the other candidates were not, and a list is given of fifteen persons who were bribed, and of four who were guilty of bribing. They also report that at the election in August, 1859, for the seat vacated by Mr. Earle by arrangement bribery was committed on both sides, on that of Mr. Marjoribanks by individual supporters of his, and on that of Mr. R. Hodgson more systematically; that Mr. Hodgson was privy to and cognisant of it, but Mr. Marjoribanks was not, and he is "entirely absolved from the suspicion of it;" a list is given of twelve persons who were bribed on this occasion, and of twelve who were guilty of bribing. The total constituency was 716. The Commissioners represent the great difficulty they found in procuring correct information, and say that not a few of the witnesses prevaricated and perjured themselves with the most hardened effrontery. The Commissioners add that the allegations of Sergeant Brodie, who declared that Mr. Disraeli had employed him to corrupt the Berwick electors in favour of Mr. Earle, were "utterly groundless."

GAS EXPLOSION AT PRESTON.—A tremendous explosion took place in Preston, on Wednesday, of a gasometer at the Gas Company's Works, in Walker-street. The gasometer was estimated to contain 330,000 feet of gas. The consequences of the explosion were not so fatal as might have been expected. Several men were terribly scorched and bruised, but no life was lost. The property in the neighbourhood was much damaged.

MURDER IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—A small farmer, named Henry Lacy, in the neighbourhood of Lyde, Isle of Wight, is in custody under suspicion of having murdered his wife. The crime is believed to have been committed on Saturday night or Sunday morning, while the man was in a state of intoxication, his unfortunate victim being an invalid and bedridden. A coroner's inquest was opened, when several witnesses were examined, from whose evidence it appeared that Lacy had thrown his wife down stairs, and that she died from the injuries she received. Susan Wilder, a niece of the deceased, appears to have been implicated in the occurrence, or, at all events, she knew of it, and endeavoured to conceal the fact that Lacy had thrown his wife down stairs, and represented that she had fallen down. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Lacy, who has been committed to Winchester Gaol. The woman Wilder has been remanded on the charge of "having on the 17th inst., well knowing that one Henry Lacy had then and there feloniously killed and murdered one Jane Lacy, feloniously relieved, comforted, and assisted the said Henry Lacy."

ROBBERY AND SUPPOSED MURDER IN FALMOUTH HARBOUR.—The schooner *Vicenta*, of Aberystwyth, in ballast, put into Falmouth on Sunday week. The crew consisted of the master, David Jones; the mate, Hale; two seamen, Brown and Ellis; and James Jones, an apprentice. On Wednesday week it happened that the apprentice was the only person left on board. About the same evening the captain also went on board, when he found the apprentice boy in the cabin quite insensible, blood flowing from his head. The ship had been plundered, and, from the large quantity of blood on deck, it was feared that the mate, who, it was supposed, had gone on board, was murdered and thrown overboard. The apprentice states that the two seamen, Brown and Ellis, came down in the cabin to him; that Brown struck him on the head with a piece of iron, and from that time he was insensible. Both Ellis and Brown were apprehended at Falmouth, each having on at the time some of the captain's clothes. The mate has since turned up. He could not get on board the vessel on the Wednesday night, it seems, and slept on board another ship in the harbour.

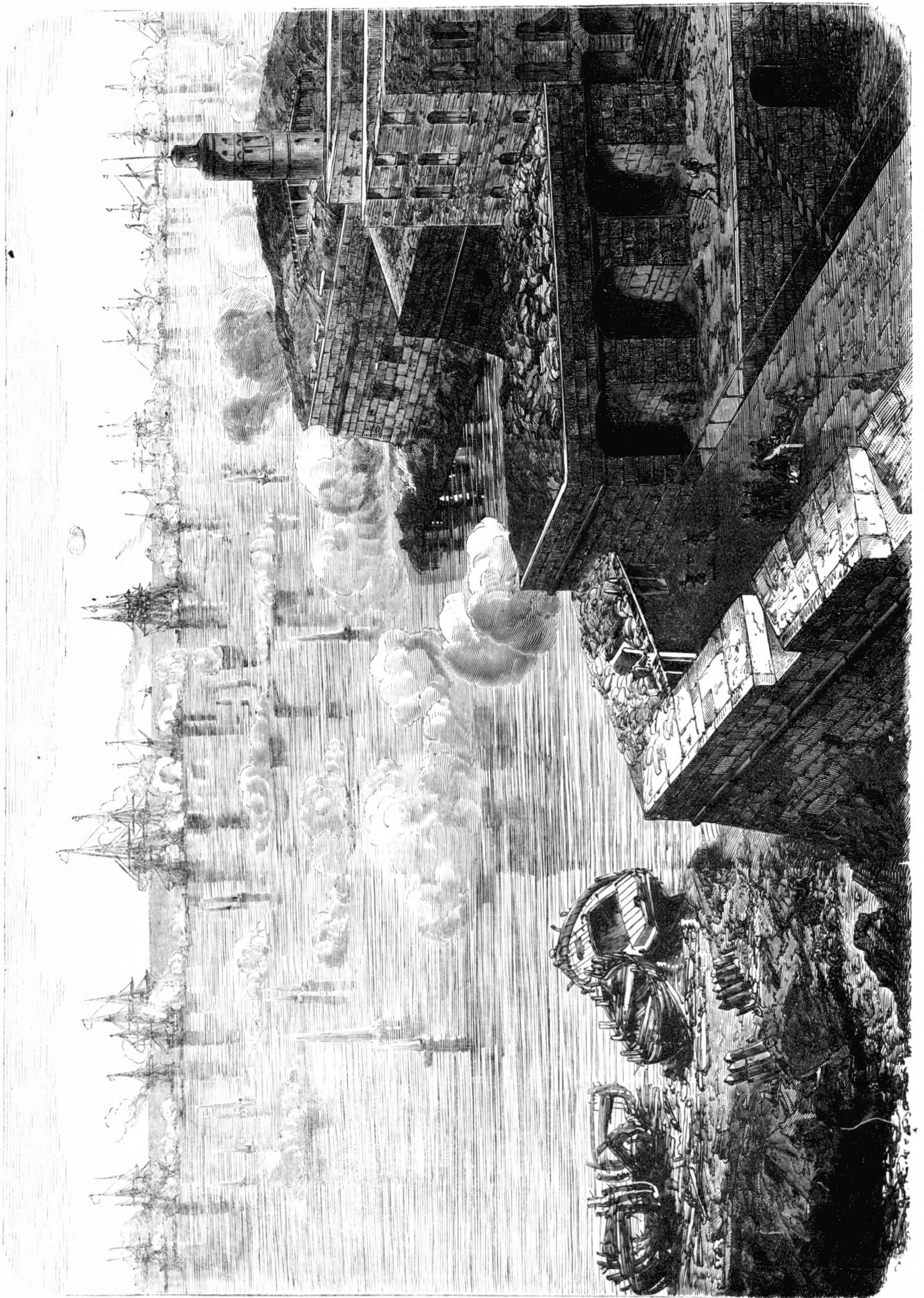
CRUELTY TO A SERVANT GIRL.—At the Kidderminster Guildhall, on Thursday week, William Medlicott, farmer, of Shutley, Salop, and Deborah, his wife, were charged with neglecting to supply their servant-girl, named Theresa Steadman, aged sixteen, with necessary food and clothing, and also with brutally assaulting her. The complaint had been an inmate of the workhouse, whence the defendants had hired her. From the statement of the girl it transpired that the female defendant had been in the constant habit of kicking the complainant, and beating her on the head. She had also ordered her fellow-servants to horsewhip her, which had been carried into effect on many occasions. Mr. Medlicott had assaulted her by dragging her along by the hair of her head, and frequently beating her with whip-handles and other formidable instruments. A multitude of witnesses testified to the barbarity and frequency of the ill-treatment the unfortunate complainant had received. Complainant's appearance was an additional corroboration, as she was one mass of bruises from head to foot. The Bench committed both the defendants to trial.

THE RISCA COLLIERY EXPLOSION.—The coroner's jury delivered their verdict in this case yesterday week:—"We find that the deceased, James Hammond, died on the 1st of December, 1860, from the effects of an explosion of fire-damp in the Black Vein Coalpit at Risca, which gas was given off suddenly in the group of stalls in the third cross-heading in the fourth last level, but there is no evidence to show how this gas ignited. And the jury recommend:—1. That the present rules shall be revised. 2. That the workings in the pit shall be more frequently inspected. 3. That the suggestions of Mr. Broun, the Government Inspector, that the ventilation of underground workings shall be so arranged that, in case of any future explosion unfortunately occurring, the disastrous results would be confined to the district in which it took place, and that a new pit shall be sunk for the permanent improvement of the ventilation of the colliery, shall be taken into the serious consideration of the directors and proprietors of the works. The jury also take the opportunity of remarking that the Stephenson lamp appears to them to be the best and safest." The inquiry lasted eighteen days.

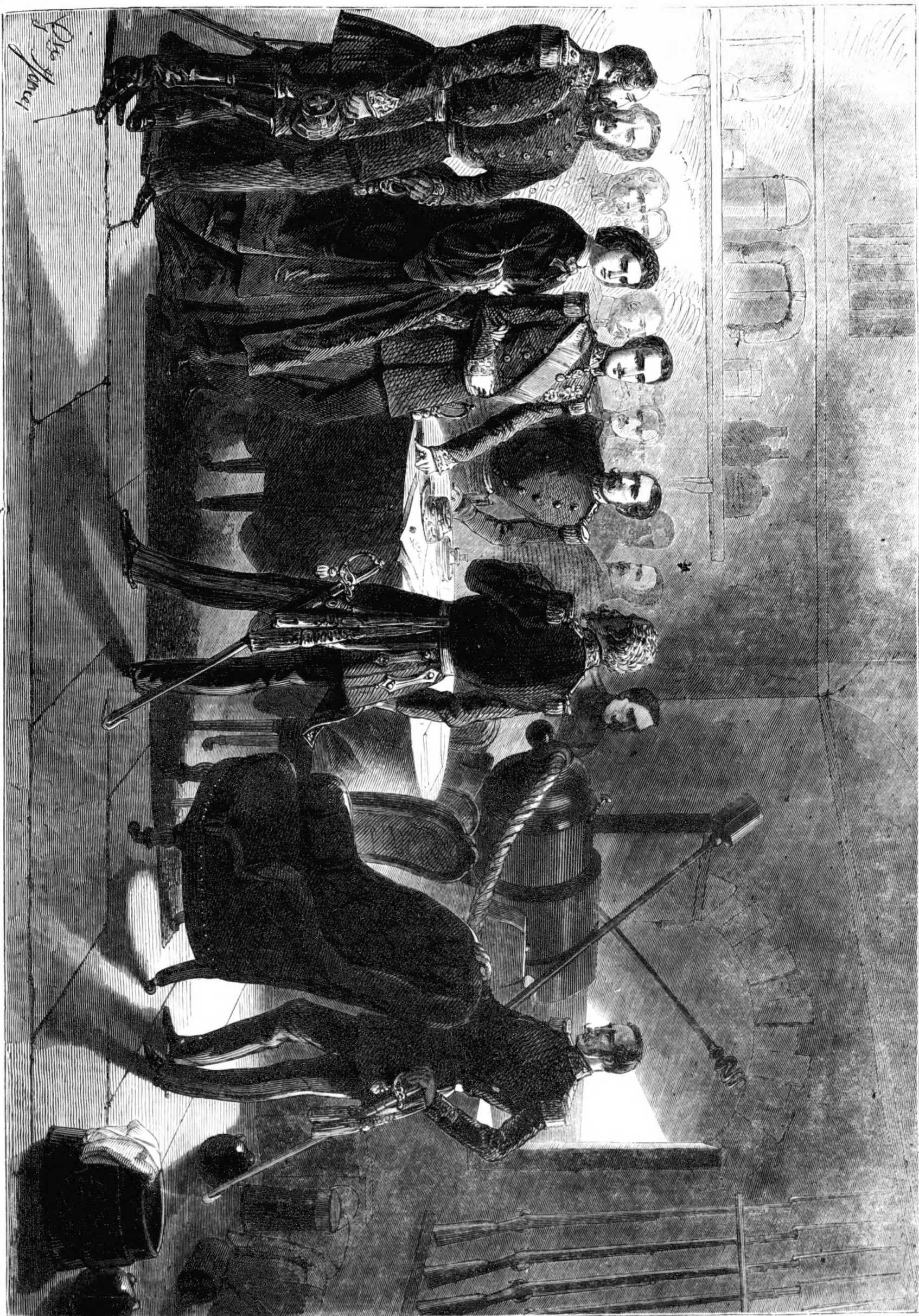
BOMBARDMENT OF GAETA.

THE last stronghold of Francis II. has capitulated, and its fall has already had effect in strengthening the national cause in Rome, where the power of Cardinal Antonelli and Monseigneur Merode is shaken by the anticipation of coming events. That this little fortress should have been the last point to which the Neapolitan troops accompanied the tyrant is explained by the fact of Gaeta having long been traditional in the Bourbon family as a refuge wellnigh impregnable. Ferdinand, the father of the late King, spent large sums upon it and increased its artificial fortifications, believing that it would always serve him in a time of need; and, indeed, while the besieged have the command of the sea, or even while the sea is held by any neutral Power, the taking of Gaeta would seem almost impossible.

But for the intervention of the French fleet, which Napoleon III. declares only sought to ensure the safety of the King and Queen, in sympathy for a Royal misfortune bravely sustained—but for this friendly and universally-misjudged interference, Gaeta would long ago have succumbed, and many lives have been spared which have now been sacrificed to the nominal honour or the fanatical hopes of Francis II. As it is, no sooner had the French Admiral withdrawn than the Sardinian vessels commenced co-operation with the land forces, and both from the fire of the famous cannon of Cavalli and the continued bombardment from the fleet the capitulation became inevitable. Of the Cavalli guns the reputation was by no means exaggerated; and this terrible battery, served by twenty artillerymen, who served it constantly, did fearful execution on the doomed city. The continued and terrible bombardment, together with the explosion of one powder-magazine after another, rendered the longer possession of the place hopeless and hazardous; and at length the King and Queen, who attended the last council of war held at Gaeta, determined to avail themselves of the protection of the French ship which carried them from the country where they had so long contested for the right of oppression. On the 14th General Cialdini occupied Monte Orlando and all the fortifications, Francis II. and his Queen departing, with their suite, on board the *Monette*, after the failure of all his schemes, either to claim the protection of some European Power, or to create a counter-revolution by means of priestly emissaries.



THE FINAL BOMBARDMENT OF GAETA BY THE SARDINIAN SQUADRON



COUNCIL OF WAR AT GAETA AT WHICH THE CAPITULATION WAS DETERMINED ON

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 148.

THE HOUSE FILLS.—COMING EVENTS.

THE House begins to assume its usual appearance, and business has commenced in earnest. The House itself is now respectfully filled every night, although many of the members are still absent. The summons has, however, gone forth; and we may expect to see every man in his place in a few days. The first important gathering will be on the second reading of Sir George Lewis's bill for the distribution of the four seats which have been so long vacant—to wit, the seats for Sudbury and St. Albans—those corrupt boroughs, which were disfranchised as a penalty for their flagrant sins. St. Albans was disfranchised by Act of Parliament in 1850; Sudbury in 1844. For 300 years these two places returned members to Parliament. Indeed, St. Albans, with intermissions, was a Parliamentary borough for over 600 years. Formerly St. Albans was "influenced" by the Earl of Verulam and Lord Spencer; but, after the Reform Act, the business of the elections gradually fell into the hands of certain local managers, whose sole aim was, as Dod, in his "Electoral Facts," says, to bleed the candidates and bribe the electors—in which process long practice had made them exceedingly adroit, until at last they went a little too far, and in a sense which they did not contemplate, "sold" themselves. There will be a strong opposition to the Government plan, generally, for appropriating these seats; but it is rumoured that, on the question whether Kensington and Chelsea shall be represented issue will be joined, and a sturdy battle fought. The case will be the Scotch Universities v. a new metropolitan borough; and it is said that, out of sheer horror at the prospect of having another metropolitan member, all the Conservatives will vote for the amendment; and, if so, and the Liberal Scotch members should help them, there is a chance of the Government being defeated. But we need be under no apprehension of a crisis. Government will not sacrifice itself for Kensington and Chelsea. Indeed, it is not improbable that Ministers will gracefully accept the change, especially as the Scotch Universities, if enfranchised, will be quite sure to send a Liberal member. It is Mr. Stirling, of Kier, the respected and accomplished member for Perthshire, who comes forward to offer battle for Scotland and her Universities; and the leadership could not be in more appropriate hands; for Mr. Stirling is himself a scholar, an author of no small repute, and is one of the most respected members of the House of Commons—a Conservative, but not a bigot; a politician, but not a violent partisan; by birth, culture, position, and in bearing a gentleman. Mr. Stirling was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge; and is the author of "Annals of the Artists of Spain," "The Cloister Life of the Emperor Charles V.," &c.

THE LOBBY TOO.—GRIEVANCES.

The lobby, too, has undergone a great change within the last week. It is no longer empty, for the old habitués have once more resumed their accustomed places. For the most part these people complain of grievances past, present, or to come, and have come here to canvass members to get their grievances removed or prevented. For example, the odd little man who takes his place every night near one of the candelabra, and has done so constantly for three Sessions past, has a grievance. What it is we could never learn, but we should fancy that it must be rather imaginary than real. He is a strange-looking person. His height we should take to be about five feet. He is lame in one leg. He wears a formidable coal-black beard and moustache, which nearly conceal the whole of his face; is generally enveloped in a long cape, and, standing against the tall brass pillar, has a strange, weird appearance. Poor man! We know not what his grievance is, but we venture to say that, if it were to be redressed to-morrow, he would not be half remunerated for the time that he has wasted here. We are told that he is often here before the House opens, and will not leave until after all the members are gone and the lights are turned off. "Does he ever get any encouragement from the members?" we once asked a policeman. "Very little, I think," was the reply. "They treat him civilly, and listen to him patiently, but nothing further. I have told him that it is no use for him to come here; but still he comes night after night as you see." But the case is very different with the cluster of gentlemen who stand against the refreshment stall; for these are omnibus proprietors, and have a real grievance in the shape of a bill before the House to enable Mr. Train to lay down railways in our streets. Their grievance is a matter of life and death; for if once our adventurous, indefatigable, American friend Train shall get the power to lay down his tramways, and introduce his American cars, the miserable, narrow omnibuses will melt away like a snowflake before the sun, and the omnibus proprietors' occupation will be gone. You see they have got Mr. Train in the midst of them, and are firing at him from all sides. But he is a match for them all, and would be if their number were legion. A remarkable man is Mr. Train—for pluck and self-confidence—moreover, he seems to have command over unlimited wealth. There is a story that when he went to Birkenhead to consult with Mr. Laird, the great shipbuilder, Mr. Laird, suspecting that he was a mere penniless adventurer, tested him in this way:—"Well, Mr. Train, I am a man of business. If you have the means, as you say, pay ten thousand pounds into my banker's to-morrow morning, and then come to me." Whereupon Mr. Train bowed and retired, and the story goes that on the following morning the money was paid into the bank, and Mr. Laird closed with the proposal of Mr. Train. What truth there is in this story we have no means of deciding. But one thing is certain—tramways are laid down at Birkenhead, and are successful. Nor are the two men who stand against the door in pursuit of a shadow. They are notable hopgrowers from Sussex, and are agitating for the repeal of the hop duty. We should, however, certainly advise them not to agitate themselves, for in their plethoric state all excitement must be dangerous. It was something more than their own produce that got them up to that prize condition. We have also had gentlemen from the bankruptcy courts here in great numbers during the past week—registrars, messengers, &c. The pruning-knife of Reform is flourishing over them, and they have come to see if they cannot persuade the Attorney-General, or, failing that, the House, to award them compensation. There is one poor man who complains that he has been a messenger of the court for half a century, that his emoluments have been £1200 a year, and that now, at the age of seventy-two, he fears he will not get more than £500. Hard case that, looking forward for a few years; but, looking back over the half century past, surely not so very hard.

GRIEVANCEMONGERS.

These are the grievance bearers; but we have another class of men in the lobby whom we may call "grievance-mongers"—i.e., men who trade upon grievances, and, like undertakers, grave-diggers, doctors, &c., get their living out of the sorrows of men. The business of these gentlemen is to get up cases and distribute them amongst the members; to organise associations and deputations; and, lastly, to canvass members. A bold, forward, impertinent, pertinacious—not to say offensive—race is this, and one which your member of Parliament would be glad to be well rid of; for they haunt the lobby, dog his footsteps in the street, and, like the Egyptian frogs, penetrate into his House. Indeed, there is no greater plague to a member of Parliament than the professional grievance-monger. Here, for example, is a member for one of the metropolitan boroughs, say. For several hours he has been watching the proceedings of the House, and now, with a glance at the clock, he moves towards the dining-room, where he has ordered Steers, the restaurateur, to have ready for him punctually at seven a nice hot steak, or it may be a carried fowl, to be preceded by a salmon cutlet or a fried sole, which he is entirely ready for, and already by anticipation enjoys. But will he get his dinner yet? Not he; for, see! a grievance-monger, one of the perst of his pertinacious tribe, has the hon. gentleman in his grip, has introduced certain greasy constituents to their member, who, knowing that there is no escape, has

quietly settled himself down to listen to the long tale of all their woes. No! no way of escape, except one—he can ask the grievance-monger and his friends to dinner. Alas! a remedy worse than the disease; and yet, perhaps, it may and must come to that at last, especially if the constituents are "influential," and the monger plays his cards well. Some of the members will not stand this sort of persecution, but boldly shake off their persecutors. "Ah, yes; well, I cannot listen to you now; but send a statement of your grievance to me in writing, and I will read it carefully and do what I can. Good day, Mr. A., how's Mrs. A.?" Good day to you. Hope soon to see you at Pedlington," &c. This is the off-hand style of some of the bolder sort; but only a few have courage to adopt it.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SPHINX.

We venture this week to close our article with a riddle. Riddles of a general character do not, of course, belong to our department; but this is a Parliamentary riddle. It comes in the form of a question put to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs on Friday night, and so good is it that the noble Lord confessed he could not solve it; nor could any other member in the House. We also gave it up, after several minutes' consideration, in despair. For a moment we thought we saw a "glimmer of the meaning," but it was only for a moment, and then darkness as of the night fell down upon us. We now present it to our readers to puzzle them:—

Mr. Griffith,—"To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is to be understood that it is the meaning and intention of her Majesty's Government to give any encouragement to the idea that any scheme having for its object the retention of any part of the temporal sovereignty of the Pope, as a possible solution of the Italian Question, could, under any circumstances, be satisfactory or acceptable to the Italian people."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LAW COURTS.

Lord ST. LEONARDS drew the attention of the House to the scheme for building new law courts by applying the moneys of the Sutors' Fee Fund to that purpose. He opposed the design upon the ground that it was inexpedient to take a sum of £1,400,000 belonging to the Sutors' Fee Fund of the Court of Chancery in order to build courts which those sutors did not require for the benefit of all the law courts.

The LORD CHANCELLOR could not possibly understand what objections could be raised against the plan if a guarantee were given by the Government for any claims that might be made on the Sutors' Fee Fund.

After a few words from Lord GRANWORTH, who dissented from the views of Lord St. Leonards, but thought the State would gain no ultimate advantage by the appropriation of the Sutors' Fund, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CHATHAM RIOTS.

In answer to Mr. Alderman Salomons, Sir G. C. LEWIS said it was not known what were the precise causes of the outbreaks at Chatham; but the general cause was supposed to be attributable to the transfer of the convicts from the hulks to the prison, and it had been found difficult to maintain discipline. No specific grievance had been alleged by any convict.

INDIAN LEGISLATION.

Mr. EWART asked whether any measures would be adopted by Government for giving improved Local Legislative Councils to India, of which British settlers as well as natives of India might, to a certain extent, be members, in conformity with the recommendation of the Select Committee which lately considered the subject of British settlement in India?

Sir C. WOOD said he had been in communication with the Governor-General on the subject of the recommendations of the Committee, and before he had received a reply he should be sorry to express any opinion upon it, but it would not be lost sight of. The employment of natives of India was extremely desirable, and had to a certain extent been adopted; but it was a different thing to put them into the Legislative Council at Calcutta.

MENTONE AND ROQUEBRUNE.—THE POPE.—THE STADE DUES.

In answer to questions by Mr. B. COCHRANE, Mr. GRIFITH, and Mr. Digby Seymour.

LORD J. RUSSELL said, with regard to the annexation of Mentone and Roquebrune, in the principality of Monaco, to France, that those two places were between Nice and the Sardinian frontier. For a long time there had been disputes between the King of Sardinia and Monaco, and in 1848 the towns expressed a wish to be annexed to Sardinia, and they had since been occupied by Sardinian troops. The cession of Nice to France changed the question, and the causes of dispute ceased with Sardinia. The Emperor had offered to purchase the towns from the Prince of Monaco, which offer was accepted. He did not see that any great political importance attached to the transaction, as the frontier of Sardinia remained unchanged.

With regard to there being any intention of her Majesty's Government to give any encouragement to the idea of any scheme which, having for its object the retention of any part of the temporal sovereignty of the Pope as a possible solution of the Italian question, would under any circumstances be satisfactory or acceptable to the Italian people, he could not answer such a question.—Respecting the Stade dues, it was the fact that an offer had been made to purchase them for a sum, of which Great Britain was to pay a third, one-third by Hamburg, and one-third by all other States contributing to the tolls. It was believed that some such arrangement would be finally come to ere long. No State would be exempt from toll until the whole indemnity was paid.

THE YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

In answer to Mr. WATKINSON, Mr. T. G. BARING said it was the intention of the Government to call out the yeomanry cavalry for duty this year.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

INDIA CADETSHIPS.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH asked in what manner the Government had provided for the interests of the sons of persons who had served in India since the transfer of the Government to the Crown, and whether recent alterations would affect the provision of the Act of 1853, which provided that one-tenth of the military appointments other than in the Artillery and Engineers should be given to the sons of persons who had served in India?

LORD DE GRAY could not give any positive answer, as the subject was still under consideration. The Government intended fully to carry out not only the letter but the spirit of the Act of 1853.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BELLIGERENT RIGHTS AT SEA.

In answer to Mr. Horsfall, Lord J. RUSSELL said that no steps had been taken with the view of carrying out the recommendation of the Shipping Committee of last year on the subject of belligerent rights at sea. Some difficulty had arisen in arranging the question of the rights of private property in war with the United States, as an opinion had been there expressed that blockades should be confined to places actually besieged. He (Lord J. Russell) now expressed an opinion that the question was one affecting the maritime power of this country, and that the adoption of the principle of respecting private property at sea in war would give a great advantage to other Powers with less powerful navies.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The second clause, which authorised the appointment of a Chief Judge, gave rise to a discussion, upon a suggestion that his functions might be assigned to one of the present Judges in Chancery, in the course of which the Attorney-General explained the working of the judicial machinery under the bill, arguing that the manifold duties of the Chief Judge would occupy his whole time.

Upon arriving at the 50th clause—the preceding clause, except a few that were postponed, having been agreed to with very slight amendments—the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

PAROCHIAL ASSESSMENTS.

Upon the order for the second reading of the Parochial Assessments Bill, Mr. HENLEY, Mr. A. SMITH, and Mr. DEEDS suggested delay. After a few words from Mr. BARROW,

Sir G. LEWIS said the principle of the bill was merely to provide a better machinery for establishing fairness and uniformity in framing assessments; and he was ready, if the bill were read a second time, to discuss, on the motion for commitment, the question whether the bill should be referred to a Select Committee.

A short discussion ensued, when the bill was read a second time, upon the understanding that it would be referred to a Select Committee.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. DISRAELI complained that the arrangement of the business on the paper had been departed from, to the great inconvenience of members, and asked what prospect there was of conducting the public business properly if this practice were followed?

Sir G. LEWIS explained the reasons of the disarrangement. A desultory conversation upon the subject followed.

THE RED SEA TELEGRAPH.

On the motion for the nomination of the Select Committee on the Red Sea and India Telegraph Bill, a discussion arose upon the merits of the original contract, and as to whether the company had fulfilled their engagements.

The Committee was ultimately nominated.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

STAFF CORPS IN INDIA.

In reply to Lord WYNDOLF, EARL DE GRAY and RIFON said that the same course would be followed in future with regard to the appointments to the Staff Corps in India as had prevailed previous to the amalgamation of the two armies.

EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.—COAL TAX.

In answer to Lord Llanover, EARL GRANVILLE said a Commission would be appointed to consider the subject of the embankment of the Thames. The question of a bill relating to the coal tax by the city of London was under consideration.

THE CHINA EXPEDITION.

EARL GREY moved for copies or extracts of any despatches received by her Majesty's Government explaining the objects of an expedition reported to have been ordered to proceed up the Yang-Tze-Kiang; and to call the attention of the House to the papers relating to China laid before it by command of her Majesty. The noble Earl, without professing to dwell on the immediate causes of the late war with China, traced the history of our intercourse with China since the treaty which terminated the first war, contending that England had exhibited one uniform disregard of the obligations of that treaty, especially in reference to the opium trade and the traffic in coolies. Lord GREY also endeavoured to show that our policy in China had seriously affected our pecuniary interests.

LORD WOLVENHUTCH urged that all along England had the best intentions and a sincere desire to promote the interests of commerce by maintaining peace. The wars that had taken place were entirely attributable to the bad faith of the Chinese authorities. In the recent hostilities the conduct of the European forces had been characterised by forbearance and humanity, and the Plenipotentiaries had sought no severe or exacting treaty, but had concluded one that was at once just and moderate.

The EARL OF ELLENBOROUGH thought that England had been most unjust to China at all times, and not less so in the fourth war which they waged against that empire.

The subject then dropped.

MR. TURNBULL AND THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE.

The EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, who had a motion on the paper for a copy of the memorial of the Protestant Alliance to the First Lord of the Treasury on the matter of Mr. Turnbull, complained that the Marquis of Normanby had not fixed a day for bringing on the subject.

The Marquis of NORMANBY said he would name an early day.

The EARL OF ELLENBOROUGH hoped that before the discussion came on Lord Shaftesbury would enlighten the House as to what the Protestant Alliance was, its objects and constitution.

After a conversation the motion of the Marquis of Normanby was fixed for Tuesday next.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FRANCHISE.

MR. LOCKE KING moved for leave to bring in a bill to extend the franchise in counties in England and Wales. As there was no prospect of a reform bill, he thought this a favourable opportunity to bring forward an instalment of reform by proposing the reduction of the franchise to a £10 occupation. The old arguments that the county franchise ought to be by tenure and the borough franchise by occupation were now practically given up. The principle of the bill he now proposed had been adopted in 1834, 1857, 1858, and 1860 by Lord J. Russell, as well as by Lord Palmerston and Sir J. Graham, and, still more remarkably, by Lord Derby's Government in 1859. This being so, there was no pretence or excuse for objecting to this bill. One clause of the bill would extend the franchise to the occupier of a £10 house.

MR. WARNER, who had given notice of an amendment that a Select Committee be appointed to consider what changes it may be desirable to introduce with a view to amend the representation of the people, said that he did not mean it as indicating hostility to Mr. L. King's bill, but had brought it forward pursuant to a notice which he had given last Session, so that something definite in this respect might be arrived at. He did not believe that this bill would introduce any large number of the working classes to the franchise. He objected to the principle of a uniform rating qualification, which he believed was the real obstacle to all reform in the representation of the people. He should not press his amendment, but bring it forward as a substantive motion, and vote for the proposed bill.

MR. GRIFITH moved as an amendment that, considering that the object of the proposed bill involved the practical adoption of a principle which has generally been considered as opposed to the spirit of our Parliamentary constitution—namely, the uniformity of the county and borough franchise—it is not expedient to reduce the county franchise below £20.

MR. NEWDEGATE was sorry that Mr. Warner had withdrawn his amendment, because this question of the reduction of the county franchise had been taken for granted, and it was a matter which demanded inquiry. He objected to isolated measures on the subject of Reform in Parliament, to which he was himself by no means opposed. This bill would increase rather than reduce the exercise of the franchise by the working classes.

MR. BENTINCK denied that this bill would extend the county franchise, but its practical effect would be to inundate the rural districts with urban voters.

LORD PALMERSTON said that there were two things that he did not mean to do; firstly, he would not oppose the introduction of the bill; and, secondly, he would not enter into a discussion of the subject; for doing the former would be implying a change of opinion on the question, and the latter would bring about that which had been so much deprecated last year. He regretted that this bill and that projected by Mr. Baines on the borough franchise had been brought forward, because it was very doubtful, looking to the experience of last year, whether the questions involved would be adequately discussed. They were bringing in, piecemeal, the very measure which the Government, in redemption of a pledge, had introduced, and which was not acceptable to the great majority of the H-use. As had been said by the King of Italy in his speech, there was "a time for action and a time for waiting;" and he thought, as regarded the organisation of the representation of the people, this was a time for waiting. He should not oppose the introduction of the proposed bills; yet, as his opinion was that measures of such vast importance should be the duty of Ministers of the Crown, he regretted that his hon. friends had taken this step, and they must not expect any facilities from the Government in the conduct of them.

MR. DISRAELI said that he would not oppose the introduction of the bill. Mr. Locke King was under a mistake in supposing that the principle of his bill was adopted in Lord Derby's Reform Bill, the primary £10 occupation being one on land, and there were ten other county franchises introduced besides. He was of opinion that such questions as the reform of Parliament could only be dealt with by means of large and comprehensive measures, and if such measures could not be carried it was a proof that there was no necessity for them. He was opposed to the principle of the measure; and he regretted that there would be a waste of the limited time allotted to the measures of private members in bringing forward these retail reforms by mere hucksters when the great firm had declared that wholesale dealing was beyond their capital and enterprise, nor could he conceive their object in moving that which was now the most unpopular subject in the country. He trusted that, after the courtesy of allowing the bills to be brought in was fulfilled, some mode of getting rid of them would be found.

MR. GRIFITH withdrew his amendment, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

PROBATE DUTY.

MR. W. WILLIAMS moved that in the opinion of the House real property should be made to pay the same probate duty as that now payable on personal property.

MR. GLADSTONE opposed the motion on the ground that the proposition was either just not practicable.

On a division the motion was lost by 167 to 51.

THE INCOME TAX.

MR. HUBBARD moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the present mode of assessing and collecting the income and property tax, and whether any mode of levying the same, so as to render the tax more equitable, can be adopted. He proposed that allowances be made in outgoings for land and houses, on diminished royalties on mines, and a deduction of one-third on incomes derived from trades and professions.

MR. GLADSTONE said that he could not consent to the motion for inquiry, and more especially when it was to be directed and governed by the plan which had accompanied it, which amounted to a proposition to fix a different rate for each schedule of the income tax.

After a brief debate, on a division the motion was carried by 131 to 127. The Government was thus defeated.

SUPERANNUATIONS.—BURIAL-GROUNDS.—THE FRANCHISE.

MR. M. MILNES obtained leave to bring in a bill to make better provision for granting superannuations to officers of prisons in England and Wales.

Sir S. M. Peto obtained leave to bring in a bill to make further provision with respect to the burial of persons not being members of the Church of

England; the object being to obtain Christian burial for Nonconformists and the unbaptised.

Mr. BAINES moved for leave to bring in a bill to extend the franchise in boroughs in England and Wales to £6. He expressed his regret at the tone adopted by Lord Palmerston in reference to the question of Reform, and urged that practical reform was only to be obtained by isolated measures.

Lord PALMERSTON explained that he had not adopted any tone of levity in his previous remarks, and repeated the objections he had stated to the proposals of small reform bills, and stated that he should not oppose the introduction of the bill.

Leave was granted.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICES.—THE CHURCH.

Mr. HADFIELD moved the second reading of the Qualification for Offices Bill, the object of which is to do away with the declaration which is made on the acceptance of offices, by which the holders are bound to state that they will do nothing in their offices inconsistent with the interests of the Church of England. He urged that it operated in many cases as a practical exclusion of Dissenters from offices.

Mr. NEWDEGATE contended that the required declaration was a reasonable demand on the part of the State. He moved the rejection of the bill.

Sir G. C. LEWIS believed the declaration useless, and he should vote for the second reading.

Mr. SOTHEBY-ESTCOURT concurred in the opinion that the declaration afforded no safeguard to the Church, but the bill was presented as one of the steps by which it was sought to separate the Church from the State. He opposed the bill.

On a division, the second reading was carried by 93 to 80.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS AND THE DISSENTERS.

Mr. DILLWYN moved the second reading of the Trustees of Charities Bill, the object of which is to enable Dissenters to be trustees of charities, and especially endowed schools, except in such cases in which specific directions were given by grantors that they should be confined to the Church of England.

Mr. SELWYN moved the rejection of the bill.

The bill was supported by Mr. Mellor and Mr. Lowe, and opposed by Sir W. Heathcote, Sir H. Cairns, and Mr. Henley.

On a division, the second reading was carried by 164 to 157.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21. HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CASE OF MR. TURNBULL.

The Marquis of NORMANBY read the precise form of the motion he intended to submit with respect to the case of Mr. Turnbull. It was to the effect that their Lordships express their regret at the circumstance.

The Indictable Offences Bill, the Fictitious Savings Banks Bill, and the Constructive Notices Bill were severally read a third time and passed.

THE ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

Lord STRATHEDEN called the attention of their Lordships to the report of the Select Committee of last Session on the elective franchise. The noble Lord proceeded to remark that it was absolutely necessary that the country should be informed of the policy the Government intended to pursue with respect to the elective franchise. Events had arisen that called most unmistakably for a new settlement of the franchise, and if it was thought that the people out of doors were indifferent to the question it was a great and fatal mistake. As early as 1833 a demand was made for an alteration in the Reform Bill, and although that demand had not been complied with, and the feeling had from that period continued to increase, and although the Government had now abandoned the question of reform, people out of doors had not done so. It was a very serious proceeding to wait until the populace demanded in threatening voice that the question should be reconsidered. Such a policy caused Louis Philippe the loss of his kingdom. It would be wise now to pass a well-considered and comprehensive measure of reform which would create repose and prevent all fear for the future. The noble Lord concluded by moving for a return of the number of 40s. freeholders in every county in England and Wales.

Earl GRANVILLE said there would be no objection to furnish the return moved for.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

GERMAN LEGION.

Mr. ADDERLEY moved an address for a return of the length of time during which the German Legion at the Cape had been on full pay from the English Treasury; the whole amount of their pay up to the present time; and under what Parliamentary votes any part of such payment had come.—Ordered.

THE WAR IN SOUTHERN ITALY.

Lord E. HOWARD asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether her Majesty's Government would use its influence with his Majesty King Victor Emmanuel to prevent bloodshed in his present hour of success; and would instruct its diplomatic and consular agents to keep it fully informed of the measures ordered or adopted by the present *de facto* Government of Southern Italy for the purpose of re-establishing order?

Lord J. RUSSELL, who was very imperfectly heard in the reporters' gallery, was understood to say that the Sardinian army had acted with clemency in the war, except in some particular occasions, and the Government of this country had not interfered in the subject. From a communication received from the Sardinian Minister there was every reason to believe that any further military operations that might be necessary would be conducted in a humane manner.

INDIAN NAVY, &c.

Sir G. BOWYER asked the Secretary of State for India if the Indian Navy was to be abolished as a war service and converted into a mere transport service; if so converted, would the officers be given the option of retiring on a liberal pension according to their length of service? If the service be kept on a war footing, how would it stand with regard to the Royal Navy, and would its services be confined to the Indian seas; and was it the intention of Government to build any more vessels expressly for the Indian Navy, or to make any more special appointments to that service; or, in other words, would it be suffered to die out?

Sir C. WOOD stated generally that some alterations were contemplated, and would be carried out.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY BILL.

The House went into Committee on this bill, and resumed at clause 52, which was agreed to.

Clauses 53 to 55 inclusive were agreed to.

On clause 56,

Mr. E. JAMES moved the following amendment, which, after some discussion, was agreed to:—"Page 14, lines 11 and 12, leave out 'or any one of the Commissioners of the Court of Bankruptcy in London,' and insert 'or one of her Majesty's Counsel, or a Serjeant-at-Law.' Line 13, leave out 'or Commissioner,' and insert 'Queen's Counsel, or a Serjeant-at-Law.'"

Clauses 57 to 75 were agreed to, with some verbal amendments.

Clauses 80 were agreed to without discussion.

On clause 81, which relates to the abolition of the distinction between traders and non-traders, some discussion took place, in the course of which

Sir G. BOWYER said that he considered this clause should, at all events, be postponed. He thought that, according to the principles of jurisprudence, the distinction here sought to be abolished should be retained. The law of bankruptcy applied only to the trader, and was introduced by the statute of Henry VIII., which was criminal in its provisions. That law did not apply to non-traders, and there were good reasons why it should not.

The remainder of the evening was occupied in discussing other clauses of the bill.

MURDER OF A BRITISH CONSUL.—A letter from Mexico says:—"A most melancholy occurrence has just taken place at Tasco, by which Mr. Bodmer, her Majesty's Vice-Consul at that place, has fallen a victim to the brutality of some troops under the order of Vicario. While endeavouring to save a prisoner whom these demons were torturing, he was shot through the lungs, and expired a few hours afterwards."

AUSTRIAN FINANCE.—The Minister of Finance has published a concise account of the revenue and expenditure during the financial year 1860, which ended on the 31st of October:—The direct taxes amounted to 90,700,000*fl.*; the indirect taxes to 179,300,000*fl.*; the proceeds from State property, 8,000,000*fl.*; "different receipts," 11,200,000*fl.*; and "moneys received," State property sold, 3,700,000*fl.* The total revenue was 302,800,000*fl.*, which is 42,000,000*fl.* more than in 1859. The total expenditure was 307,000,000*fl.*—that is, Civil List, Ministerial departments, and civil administration, 104,500,000*fl.*; army, 126,600,000*fl.*; navy, 9,100,000*fl.*; interest of national debt, 101,400,000*fl.*; payment on debts according to convention, 15,000,000*fl.*; capital placed (*Capitals Anlage*), 6,500,000*fl.* The deficit in 1860 was 64,200,000*fl.* In 1860, a year of peace, 126,000,000*fl.* were expended for the army, but in the budget for 1861 the probable outlay for military purposes is only 97,000,000*fl.* It is generally supposed that the deficit in 1861 will be about 100,000,000*fl.*, if peace should be maintained.—The 15,000,000*fl.* on account of "debts according to convention" is, doubtless, an instalment on the debt owing to Russia for the assistance rendered to the Austrian Government in 1849.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

We have a return before us which tells the tale of our income and expenditure first for a half, and then for three quarters, of the year 1860-1.

On the 30th of September last the account for the twelve preceding months, comprising half the past and half the current financial year, showed that our expenditure had exceeded our income by no less a sum than £1,335,856. On the 31st of December the account had materially improved, but the balance was still on the wrong side of the sheet, though it had been reduced to about half its former amount. We discover, too, that nothing but the property tax saved us from a still greater deficit; for the large items of Customs and Excise had fallen off very considerably in the Christmas reckoning. What the figures will become next quarter, when the financial year 1860-1 will stand on its own merits exclusively, we shall learn probably from Mr. Gladstone's mouth before the publication of the Lady-day returns.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

THE Navy Estimates for the year 1861-2 are out, and show a net decrease of £506,625 as compared with the last vote for the financial year 1860-1. It is estimated that we shall have to pay £351,177 less for wages to seamen and marines; £129,828 less for their victuals; £34,303 less for Coastguard, Coast Volunteers, and Naval Reserve; £328,555 less for wages to artificers at home; and, omitting smaller items, £231,000 less for conveyance of troops. On only two items is there an increase of any importance. Naval stores for the building, repair, and outfit of ships, for steam machinery, and contracts, are expected to exceed the outlay of the year by £285,000; and new works and improvements in the naval yards by £23,286. Thus the material part of our naval expenditure goes on still increasing, in the face of a total reduction. The seamen voted last year were 68,100; this year they are to be 59,000, the marines in both years being 18,000. Including "civilians" for Coastguard service, the total force in the fleet and Coastguard service voted last year was 85,500; this year it is to be 78,200. The total cost of the "wooden walls" of old England, including their brave defenders, was £12,836,100 last year, and is to be £12,029,475 this year.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

THE Army Estimates for the year ending March 31, 1862, show a net decrease of £185,795; and this notwithstanding* that the number of the land forces—146,044—is an increase of 775 over the previous year.

The items in the effective services in which an increase on the previous estimates takes place are as follows:—Land forces, pay and allowances, £42,290; ditto, miscellaneous charges, £27,811; volunteer corps, £65,276; departments of the Secretary of State for War, and of the General Commanding-in-Chief, £5609; manufacturing establishments, military storekeepers, barrackmasters, lodging-money, rents, &c., £24,690; clothing and necessaries, £201,416; provisions, forage, fuel, and light, barrack furniture, bedding, &c., £178,457; warlike stores for land and sea service, £112,493.

The principal decrease takes place in the two items of fortifications and embodied militia. Last year £320,000 was voted for the latter, but this year they disappear from the votes. The vote for fortifications is £137,170 less. In wages of artificers there is a deduction of £4787, £27,093 in civil buildings, £17,448 in barracks, and £16,533 in educational and scientific branches. In the non-effective services the largest saving is in the out-pension vote, which is £20,532 less.

The total sum required for the effective and non-effective services is £14,606,751, against £14,792,546 voted last year.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—A very influentially-attended meeting of the National Rifle Association was held at Willis's Rooms on Saturday. Lord Herbert presided. One of the principal points of his speech was the means adopted by the association to connect the volunteer movement in the colonies with the great organisation at home. His Lordship put down the number of volunteers at the present time at 140,000. It was resolved that the great shooting match of 1861 should take place at Wimbledon, it being difficult to find elsewhere so suitable a locality.

NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.—The Liverpool Financial Reform Association have drawn up a petition to Parliament on the question of our national expenditure. The petition calls attention to the enormous sums now spent upon warlike armaments; to the system of indirect taxation, by which this vast expenditure is rendered possible; to the manner in which the landowners have evaded their share of the national burdens; and it suggests that the accounts for the past year, and the estimates for the ensuing year, should be made up to the 31st of December, and that these accounts and estimates should be submitted to a Finance Committee.

REFORM DEMONSTRATION.—A great Reform demonstration was held a few evenings since at the Horse Repository, Southwark. Mr. Locke and Mr. Layard, the two borough members, attended. Mr. Fawcett, one of the candidates at the past election, also took a prominent part in the proceedings. A resolution declaring that the meeting regarded with indignation the declaration of Lord John Russell that the people were indifferent to Reform, and calling upon the Government at once to introduce a satisfactory measure, was unanimously adopted. So also was a petition to Parliament embodying these opinions.

PROPOSED NEW BRIDGE FROM LAMBETH TO WESTMINSTER.—The examiners of the House of Commons have declared the standing orders complied with in the case of this proposed undertaking for a bridge across the Thames connecting Church-street, in the parish of St. Mary, Lambeth, with Market-street, in the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Westminster. A local Act, incorporating a company for this purpose, was passed in the 6th and 7th years of William IV., but not carried into execution, and the powers thereby conferred have expired by effluxion of time. It is now sought to renew them, and to raise a first capital of £40,000, with power to take tolls.

THE LAST OF THE ABORIGINES OF TASMANIA.—In the last report issued by the Colonial Office on the past and present state of our colonial possessions an account is given of fourteen persons, all adults, aborigines of Tasmania, who are the sole surviving remnant of ten tribes. Nine of these persons are women, and five are men. There are among them four married couples, and four of the men and five of the women are under forty-five years of age; but no children have been born to them for years. It is considered difficult to account for this. The Maories of New Zealand are said to attribute their decline in number to the general change of habits introduced by civilisation. Besides these fourteen persons there is a native woman, who is married to a white man, and who has a son, a fine, healthy-looking child, of whom she and all the blacks are very proud. These fourteen aboriginal natives of Van Diemen's Land live at Oyster Cove Station, where they are fed, clothed, and housed at the public expense; their subsistence and management cost above £700 a year. Their principal employment is cooking their food, mending and making their clothes, and getting their wood, for which they have to go a considerable distance; but all work devolves on the women—the men do nothing. They are much addicted to drinking, have an antipathy to cleanliness, and insist on keeping a number of dogs, which eat, live, and sleep with their owners. Their chief amusements are fishing and hunting; in the latter they generally absent themselves once or twice during the season for two or three weeks or a month, living during that time in the bush. They always ask leave to go upon these occasions, and take with them their bedding, pots and pans, &c., and as many rations as they can carry. Their behaviour is very good when they are not excited by strong drink. The men generally speak English; but in quarrelling invariably use their original language. Their health is good.

THE ARMSTRONG GUN AND THE FLEET.—It has been finally determined at the Admiralty that the Armstrong guns shall be supplied to the eastern portion of the Channel Fleet, as follows:—

	100-pounders.	40-pounders.
Edgar.....	0	2
Trafalgar.....	0	2
Albion.....	1	2
Mercy.....	2	0
Diadem.....	2	2
Princess Royal.....	1	2
Immortalité.....	1	2

The 100-pounders are in lieu of heavy bow and stern pivot-guns, and 40-pounders in place of broadside upper-deck guns, 32-pounders. The orders direct the Princess Royal to be the first supplied, and the Immortalité the next on the list. It has been decided that the armaments of the Warrior and Black Prince shall consist of Armstrong guns only—100-pounders on the main-deck, and 70-pounders on the upper-deck.

THE BISHOPS AND THE "ESSAYS AND REVIEWS."

THE Rev. W. R. Fremantle, of Claydon Rectory, has received the following reply to an address presented to the Archbishop of Canterbury:—

Lambeth, Feb. 12.

Rev. Sir,—I have taken the opportunity of meeting many of my episcopal brethren in London to say your address before them.

They unanimously agree with me in expressing the pain it has given them that any clergyman of our Church should have published such opinions as those concerning which you have addressed us.

We cannot understand how these opinions can be held consistently with an honest subscription to the formularies of our Church, with many of the fundamental doctrines of which they appear to us essentially at variance.

Whether the language in which these views are expressed is such as to make their publication an act which could be visited in the ecclesiastical courts, or to justify the synodical condemnation of the book which contains them, is still under our earnest consideration. But our main hope is our reliance on the blessing of God in the continued and increasing earnestness with which we trust that we and the clergy of our several dioceses may be enabled to teach and preach that good deposit of sound doctrine which our Church has received in its fulness, and which we pray that the may, through God's grace, ever set forth as the uncorrupted Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I remain, rev. sir, your faithful servant,

W. R. Fremantle.

J. B. Cantuar.

I am authorised to append the following names:—

C. J. Ebor.	R. D. Hereford.
A. C. London.	J. Chester.
H. M. Dunelm.	A. Llandaf.
C. R. Winton.	R. J. Bath and Wells.
H. Exeter.	J. Lincoln.
C. Peterborough.	C. Gloucester and Bristol.
C. St. David's.	W. Sarum.
A. T. Chichester.	R. Ripon.
J. Lichfield.	J. T. Norwich.
S. Oxon.	J. C. B. Exeter.
T. Ely.	J. Rochester.
T. V. St. Asaph.	S. C. Cusack.
J. P. Manchester.	

THE CONVICT RIOT AT CHATHAM.

AN order was received on Saturday, at Chatham, by the Governor (Captain Powell) from Sir Joshua Jebb, for the immediate discharge of four of the principal warders and six other warders. It is understood, however, that these officers will be allowed to draw their pay and remain in their quarters until further orders from the Home Office. It is stated that the management and regulations now existing in the prison will undergo a very considerable alteration; the rules for the management of the prisoners will be more stringent, and the Governor will be invested with such powers as to command obedience and punish offenders.

There are still about 800 of the convicts under close confinement in their cells, the whole of whom are placed on bread and water. About 200 of the convicts who refrained from participating in the riot are allowed to leave the prison to resume their work, and these are allowed full labour diet.

A special order has been read to the revolvers, in which they are made sensible that the privileges heretofore enjoyed by them are forfeited. The gratuities awarded during their period of transportation (which are allowed to accumulate until the convict has completed his sentence) are confiscated, although some portion of these may be regained by a course of good conduct. This punishment is severely felt by the convicts, many of whom on being discharged from the prison have as much as £20 each to receive. Besides the convicts who received corporal punishment last week another class of offenders had to deal with—prisoners who were not equally culpable with the ringleaders in the riot, but who took an active part in the mutiny. These, to the number of 105 men, were chained together in catches of 13, and made to stand all day on the parade-ground in charge of the prison warders and military sentries. The strictest silence was enforced, and at night they were compelled to sleep, still chained together, on bare boards. This heavy punishment was continued day after day until Sunday last, when the Governor ordered the chains to be removed, and the men sent back to their cells, which they had not been allowed to enter for nearly a week. The convicts who were flogged had no mercy shown to them in the process. Three dozen is the maximum permitted; but the three dozen were laid on by the drummers and farriers selected for the occasion.

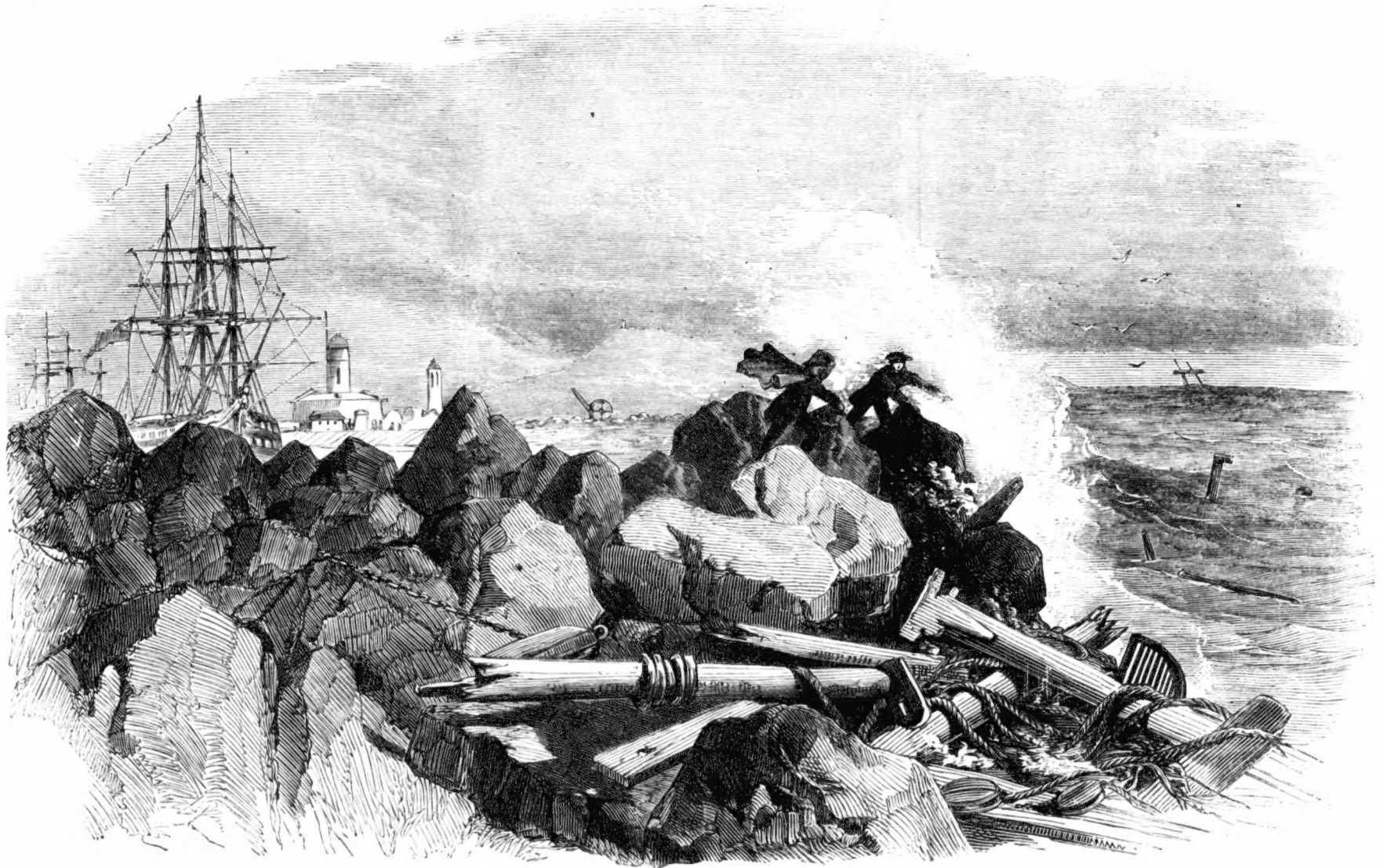
With regard to the complaints made of the insufficiency of the food supplied to the convicts, it is stated that the convicts have a larger supply of food than is supplied to the inmates of the neighbouring workhouse. The amount of food given to each convict weekly at the Chatham establishment is as follows:—189 oz. of bread, 42 oz. of cooked meat (free from bones, &c.), 7 pints of tea, 5½ pints of good soup, 7 pints of cocoa or gruel, and 7lb. of vegetables, in addition to which certain of the convicts are allowed cheese and porter on Sundays. The weekly quantity of food supplied each pauper in the Chatham workhouse is 112 oz. of bread, 16 oz. of meat pudding and vegetables, 4 oz. of cheese, 7 oz. of butter, and 1 oz. of tea.

TRADE MARKS.—The Lord Chancellor's bill makes every one of the following acts to be a misdemeanour if done with intent to defraud:—1. For any person to forge a trade mark, or so imitate it as to be likely to deceive; or to apply a trade mark, genuine or not, to any chattel not being the manufacture denoted by such trade mark; or, 2, to sell or expose for sale any chattel with such a forged trade mark or imitation, or with any trade mark which shall have been applied without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on the party accused); or, 3, to put upon any chattel, or upon any case, cover, wrapper, cask, bottle, reel, stopper, label, or any other thing in, on, or with which any chattel shall be intended to be sold or exposed for sale, or for any purpose of trade, any false indication, statement, or description of the quantity, measure, substance, or material of such chattel or any part thereof, or of the manner or place in, or at which, or of the person by whom such chattel was manufactured or produced, or was or is dealt in; or, 4, to sell, or expose or keep for sale, or for any purpose of trade, any chattel with such false indication, &c., as above described; or, 5, to forge or imitate (so as to be likely to deceive) any name or mark used to denote any picture, &c., model, sculpture, or other work of art to be the production of any person alive or dead, or to apply any such name or mark to any picture, &c., not the production of the person denoted thereby. It is not to be necessary to prove an attempt to defraud any particular person. The punishment is to be by imprisonment for not more than two years, with or without hard labour, or by fine, or both.

SOMETHING LIKE A PROFESSOR.—A letter from Warrington, Fla., to the *Pensacola Observer*, thus describes a private in one of the companies: "Professor Day is just six and a half feet high in his stockings. His weight is 310lb., and he measures seven feet in girth. He is the tallest and biggest man in the regiment, and is noted for his great strength as well as his huge proportions. He has been known to shoulder a 600 bale of cotton, and has frequently taken a whiskey barrel by the chimes, raised it at arms' length, and drunk at the bung-hole. On one occasion he threw a mustang pony and his rider over a 10-rail fence. For this offence he was tried and convicted in the Circuit Court of Lauderdale county, and fined 500 dollars. This remarkable man is the youngest and smallest of seventeen brothers. His father is two inches and a half taller than he is, but not so thickset. His brothers are taller, but none of them are so stout as the professor. It is necessary to remark that his father has been twice married, and has eight children by his first wife, and nine by his present wife. The professor is the principal of the Marion High School, and is a learned man in every sense of the word. He is a master of six languages, and as a mathematician he has no superior. He is, besides, one of the best men living, and is noted for his good nature. He never had but one fight in his life, and then he killed a horse and nearly murdered a man."

BANQUET TO SIR ARTHUR COTTON.—A public banquet to Colonel Sir Arthur Cotton was given on Wednesday night at Willis's Rooms. The Earl of Shaftesbury occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of noblemen, members of Parliament, and others, to do honour to Sir A. Cotton, and recognise his valuable labours in furthering the development of agriculture and the improvement of the condition of the natives in India.

STRIKE IN BLACKBURN.—Another of those internecine contests between capital and labour has just commenced at Blackburn, where the weavers have "turned out" to the number of 30,000, with the promise of an accession to their force. An announcement by the employers of the necessity for a reduction of 5 per cent in the present rate of wages has induced this reckless step on the part of the workpeople.



SCENE OF THE WRECK OF THE BRIG NEPTUNE, KINGSTOWN HARBOUR.—(FROM A SKETCH BY C. NICHOLLS.)

LOSS OF CAPTAIN BOYD AT KINGSTOWN.

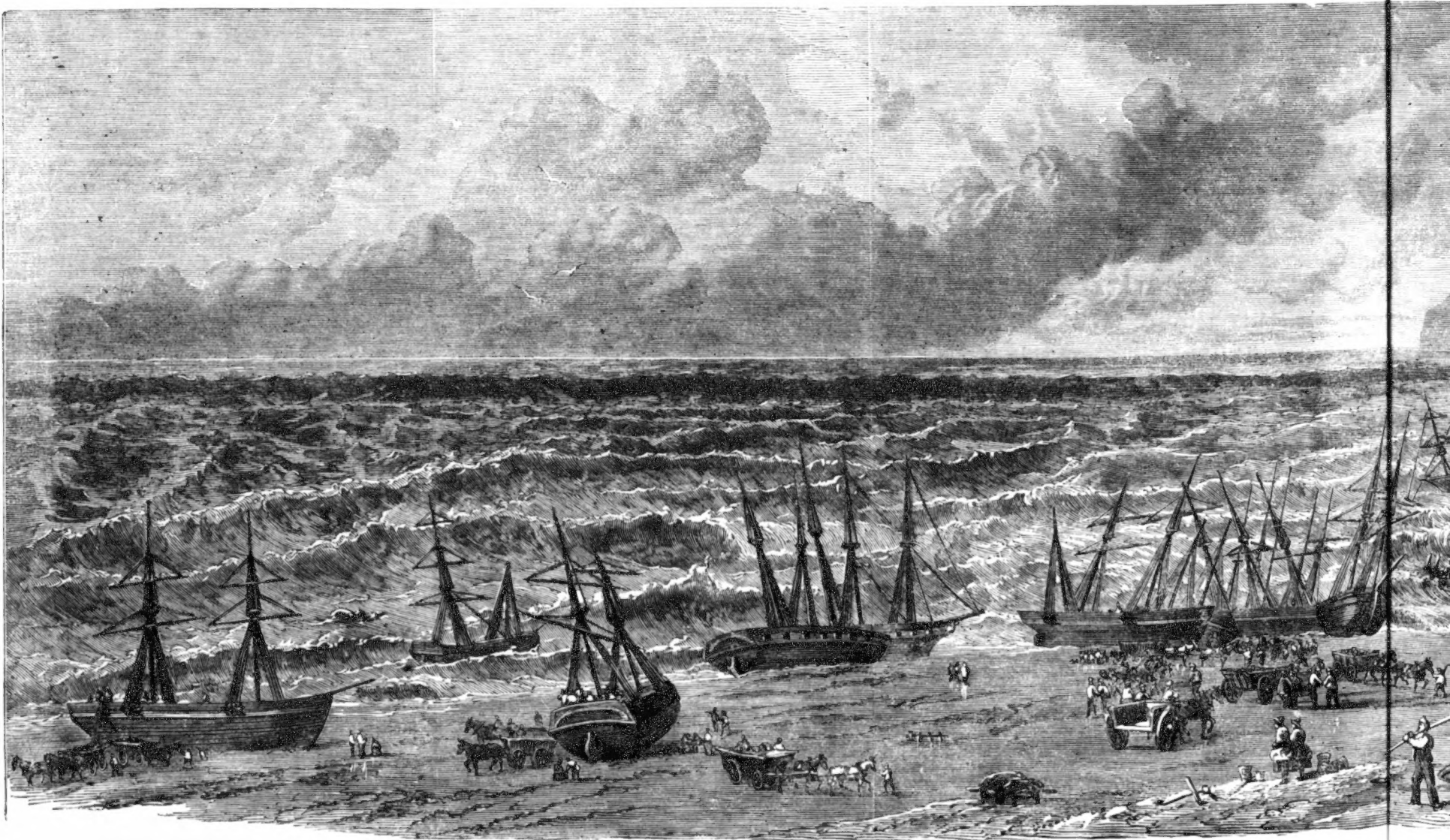
AMONGST the numerous accidents and bereavements caused by the violence of the late gales the death of Captain Boyd has been one of the most painful, though at the same time his fate was that of a brave and honourable man who met his end with the fortitude which is inspired by a discharge of duty and humanity.

The melancholy occurrence took place on the 9th inst. while a tremendous gale was blowing off Kingstown harbour, on the eastern

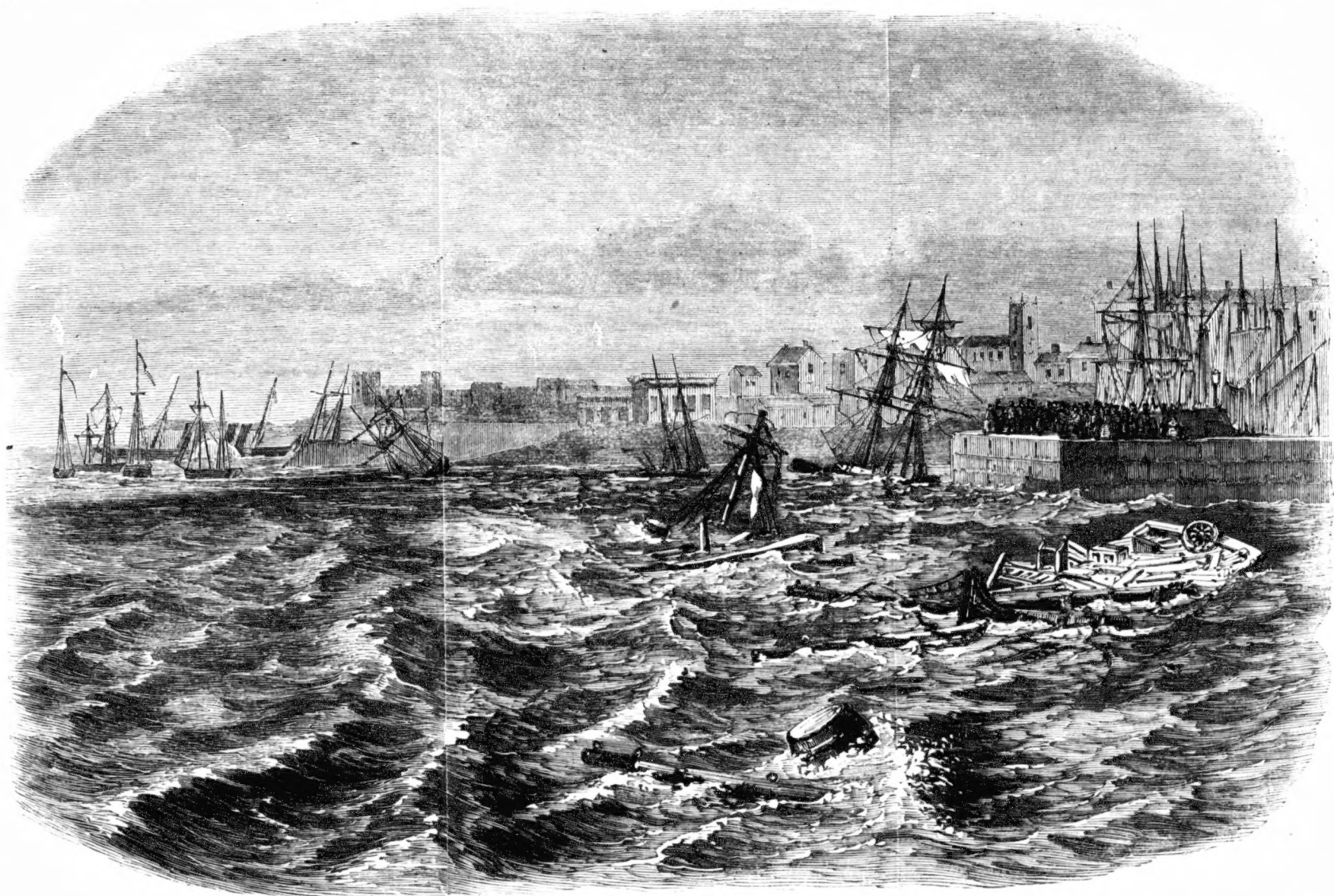
pier of which Captain Boyd was standing with his men, his own vessel, the Ajax, being in harbour at the time. That dreadful gale from the south-east which, with its accompaniment of rain and sleet, continued to rage for so many hours, strewn the eastern coast with the broken remains of vessels, and during its continuance the brig Neptune, amongst other ill-fated craft, was being driven on, and ultimately went ashore at a point at the back of the pier. It was while endeavouring to rescue the crew of the wreck that

Captain Boyd and his men were swept into the sea by the heavy waves. He, with his nine brave followers, had made every effort to save the sufferers who were fast going to a watery death, and it was while in the act of trying to save a man who was floating past the pierhead, and whom he had leapt into the waves, rope in hand, to save, that he was dashed back lifeless against the pier, and swept away a corpse.

Thus died this brave officer, in the full tide of humanity and



WRECKS OFF HARTLEPOOL ON THE 11TH OF FEBRUARY.—(SKETCHED BY C. NICHOLLS.)

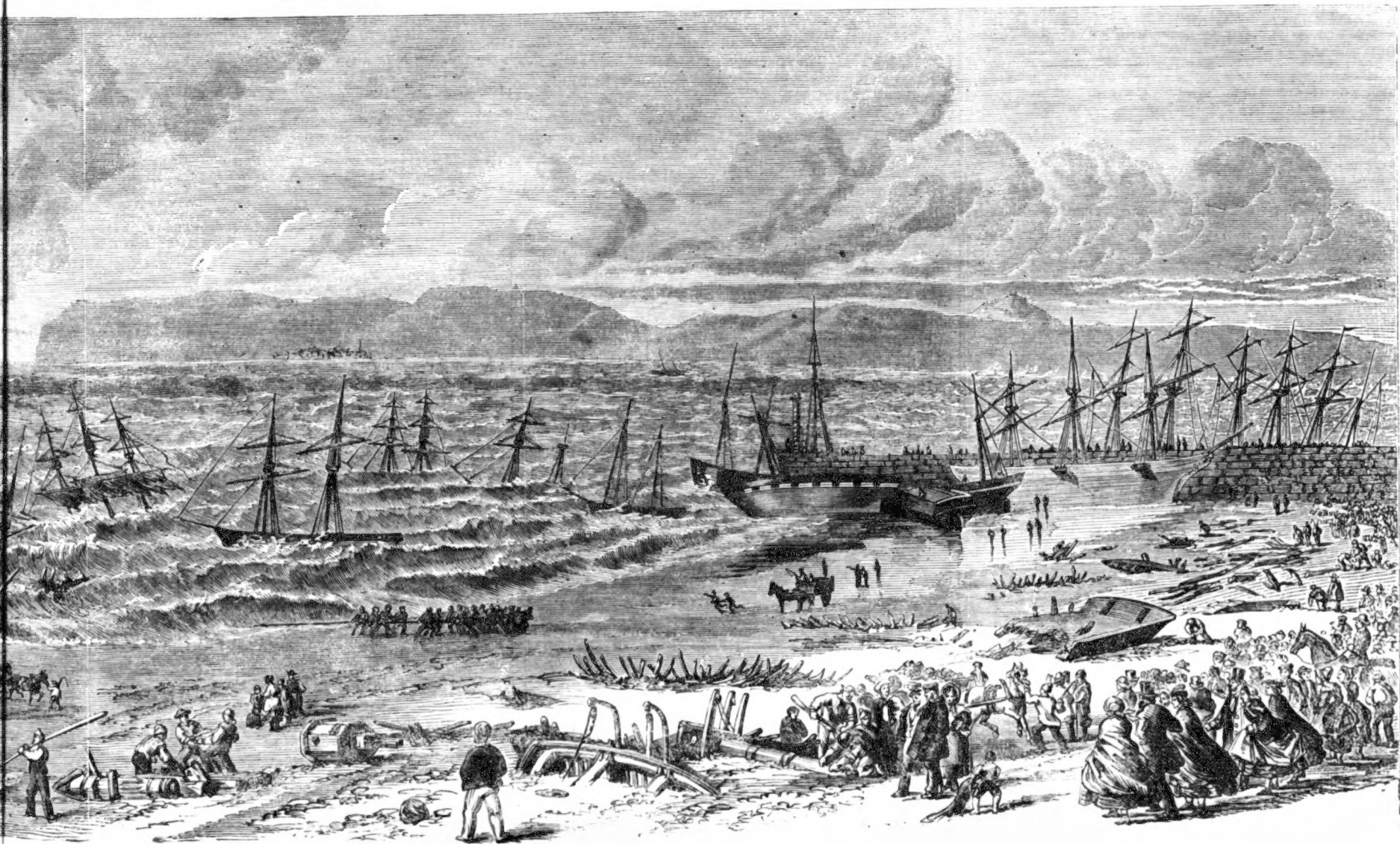


WRECKS IN KINGSTOWN HARBOUR —(SKETCHED FROM THE WEST PIER BY W. POWER.)

courage. Letters have appeared in the daily papers speaking tearfully of his death and reverently of his name. One of them says:—"His death, though deeply and universally lamented, has been glorious—more glorious and heroic than if he had fallen under the walls of Sebastopol—for it was given to save the life of a fellow-creature, when the passions were not roused by the roar of artillery,

nor by the excitement of battle, but when the path of duty pointed out to the man and the Christian, in a calm and tranquil state of mind, what he as a British officer and a British seaman should do when the shrieks of despair from a drowning man, as he floated past struggling in vain with the angry waves, arose upon his ear, and called with imploring looks for his assistance."

Our Engraving represents the scene of the catastrophe as sketched by an eyewitness; and shows the débris of the wreck in the foreground, while on the left lies the Ajax, with the Hill of Howth in the distance. Our second Engraving represents the scene presented from the west pier of Kingstown harbour on the day succeeding the gale.



(SKETCHED FROM MIDDLETON SANDS, AT LOW WATER, BY W. TAYLOR.)

THE WRECKS OFF HARTLEPOOL.

NOWHERE on the coast does the late gale appear to have committed greater ravages than at Hartlepool. A glance at the illustration on the preceding page, which shows the appearance of the bay on the morning after the tempest, may give some idea of the scene when the storm was raging and the ships were going down one after another. At three o'clock in the morning (Saturday) the barque *Cyrus*, coal-laden, drifted near to the Old Pier, and broke up. At six o'clock the brig *Princess and Mirror*, coal-laden, struck on the bar and sank. A schooner and brig also went ashore on the sands near the west Dock Piers. All the crews were saved by the life-boats. At about half-past eight a schooner sank opposite the New Pier, and all hands went down with her. The schooner *Washington*, of Seaham, ran up, after striking the bar, on to the sand near the jetty. The schooner *Savannah*, of Hartlepool, also sank on the bar. At about nine o'clock the brig *Orbit*, of Shields, struck heavily and sank. The crew were saved. About half past ten a brig went on to Longscar Rocks, and, after contending with the sea a short time, her stem went over the rock; the men perished. Scarcely had the brig disappeared than a schooner ran on to the rocks close to the brig; the crew were observed to enter a small boat, but it was only seen a short time before it disappeared. A brig then came into the bay, but, being very deep, struck heavily on the bar, and drifted on to the Middleton Sands; it turned out to be the *Express*, of London, and it had, it appears, in the night run into another brig and sunk her, with all hands. The *Elizabeth* and *Sarah*, of Whitby, then went on shore on Middleton Sands, and two other brigs sank in the bay; the crews were taken out by the life-boats. At twelve o'clock two other brigs and a schooner went aground. The scene of destruction at this time was fearful in the extreme—the rigging and sails of the shipping were hanging in shreds, the masts every now and then giving way, and the ships, being abandoned, coming occasionally in contact with each other, and thus adding to each other's destruction. A laden brig sank like a stone, taking with her crew. The *Ruby*, of Shields, and the *Ruby*, of Hartlepool, came into the bay together, and were left by their crews in the same position as the other ships. At one o'clock a brig came on to the rocks, opposite the Naval Reserve battery, and the men took to the rigging. The rocket apparatus was brought, and a rope was put on board the brig; but, the men on board not understanding the arrangements, they merely fastened the small line on board, and then went into the rigging again. There they remained for nearly three hours, every sea threatening their destruction, till at last, after waving their hands until their arms must have tired, the mast broke away, and, amid the shouts of hundreds of spectators, the poor fellows sank. One boy, however, clung to the rope made fast to the ship from the shore, and was saved.

About three o'clock, as tide-time was drawing on, dozens of ships were gradually making for Hartlepool, but few got safe into the harbour. A schooner suddenly disappeared about two miles from land. A full-rigged ship attempted West Hartlepool, but, failing, she ran up the beach adjoining the pier. The barque *Mataree*, from Shields, sank at the entrance of the west harbour.

Some astonishment is expressed that the Board of Trade should not have sent their warning of the impending gale to the Tyne, Wear, and Hartlepool, as well as to the other ports mentioned by Admiral Fitzroy, those ports being very obnoxious to a north-east gale. Of course, every one with "half an eye" could see that a north-east gale was coming on on the Friday, and none knew better than the owners who sent their vessels to sea from the Tyne and other ports on that day; but if an authoritative message had been sent down that a severe gale was impending that might have prevented them sending their vessels out. The fact was that the owners were frightened that their vessels would be kept in the harbour until next spring tides if an easterly sea rose, and hazarded sending them out.

A letter from Hartlepool says:—"Our country friends who aspire to be shipowners may easily acquire that title at this place, as a ship was sold on Tuesday, with all that was on board, for £51. Hundreds of persons are engaged in carrying away the black cargoes. One farmer in the district has led away upwards of £100 worth of coal, all of which he got for the trouble of taking: there is not an idle person to be seen in the town, and every horse and cart is engaged in leading away the remnants of the ill-fated vessels which but a few days ago sailed out of the Tyne and Wear. Numerous tenders are issued for getting the vessels which are in good position off the beach, and there is no doubt that, should the tides and weather prove favourable, many that before were considered as lost will be got off. Although it has been impossible to obtain a correct report of the exact number of vessels stranded and wrecked, the numbers may be pretty confidently stated:—Of vessels lost with all hands in view of Hartlepool there are eight; those wrecked within the limits of the bay are upwards of sixty-five, of which thirty at least have become total wrecks. The amount of property lost or destroyed has been estimated at £150,000."

During the storm two of the Hartlepool life-boats and one of the National Life-boat Institution's boats, stationed at Sinton Carew, were instrumental in rescuing twenty-six shipwrecked crews, representing at least one hundred and twenty persons.

FRENCH TRADERS AND THE TREATY.—The Amiens Chamber of Commerce forwarded recently a memorial to the Minister of Public Works, asking that the delay originally fixed for the introduction of the revised tariff should be maintained. If the reduced tariff comes into operation sooner, their markets will be flooded with English goods, now kept back through the derangement of the American trade. The Minister says in reply:—"The question of the abridgment of the maintenance of the period for the execution of the Anglo-French treaty is the subject of anxious deliberation to the Government, who, having before it the different opinions expressed by the diverse interests concerned, will seek for the solution most conformable to the general interests of the country. But in what relates to the influx, as presumed by you, of English products into our markets, I have to observe that there now exists between the various commercial countries such a community of interests that when a crisis prevails it acts upon all. Now, when there is such a crisis speculation stops short; buyers are timid, and, consequently, sales are rare and difficult, even with the temptation of exceptional low prices. It is not enough to send goods to a country in order to find a market: it is necessary to find buyers, and these are not always forthcoming when merchandise is offered. There is no reason, then, to fear anything from the influx of English products, for they would remain unsold in our markets. The English have too much experience in commercial affairs not to be perfectly competent to judge in such circumstances."

NEW QUEEN'S COUNSEL.—Her Majesty has signified her pleasure to appoint the following gentlemen to be of her counsel learned in the law:—Messrs. William Dugmore, W. A. Collins, A. Cleasby, H. W. Cole, John Fraser Macqueen, Thomas Chambers, E. Plumer Price, Josiah W. Smith, Richard Baggeley, Henry Mills, the Hon. Adolphus F. O. Liddell, W. Biall Brett, John Burgess Karslake, William Digby Seymour, John Duke Coleridge, the Hon. George Denman, and George Mellish; and to confer a patent of precedence on Mr. Sergeant Hayes.

BOURBONS IN EXILE.—Now that King Francis and his family have quitted Naples, there are in exile no fewer than fifty-five members of the Bourbon family out of the seventy-four who are the direct or collateral descendants of Louis XIV. The fifty-five are these:—The Bourbons of Naples, consisting of King Francis, five brothers and four sisters; his Majesty's uncles—Prince de Capua and two children, Count d'Aquila and two children, Count de Trapani and five; his Majesty's aunts—Queen Maria Amelie, widow of King Louis Philippe, the Duchesse de Berri, and the Duchesse de Salerno; and, lastly, a cousin-german, the Duchesse d'Aumale—total, 26. The Bourbons of Spain—the Infante Don Juan and two children—total, 3. The Bourbons of France—Count de Chambord, the Duchesse de Parma and four children—total, 6. The Orleans branch of the French Bourbons—the Count de Paris, the Duc de Chartres, the Duc de Nemours and four children, the Prince de Joinville and two, the Duc d'Aumale and two, the Duc de Montpensier and six—total, 20. Nineteen Bourbons are not in exile—namely, the Royal family of Spain, sixteen in number; the Empress of Brazil (the Princess of Naples); the Duchess Augustus of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (the Princess d'Orléans); and the Duke Charles III. of Parma, Infante of Spain, who abdicated.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1861.

SCHEDULE D.

SOME apprehension existed lately that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would seek to cover the deficit of the year by increasing the income tax. The alarm sounded, so strong a feeling against any such augmentation became manifested throughout the country that the country itself took heart, and was comforted—assured that no Chancellor with Lord Palmerston for chief would affect ignorance of the popular sentiment, or attempt to talk it down. Tranquillised on this score, all speculation as to the Budget ceased; and we awaited the production of Mr. Gladstone's financial scheme, as we still await it, with indifference. It being perfectly understood between Mr. Gladstone and the public, without any machinery of meetings, or deputations, or petitions, but by that "something in the wind" which is far more significant, that no more revenue was to be got out of income, and no more to be thrown away on the distant enchantments of commercial treaties, the Chancellor was left to work out his plans uncheered by interest and undisturbed by curiosity.

If these plans, after all, included any the smallest design to increase the impost, Mr. Gladstone must have been considerably upset on Tuesday night, just as the victims of Schedule D have been surprised and delighted by what took place in the House of Commons on that evening. The incidence of the tax was arraigned by Mr. Hubbard, a man of some authority in finance; and, though he was answered by Mr. Gladstone in one of his most persuasive speeches, the House of Commons voted for Mr. Hubbard's views, and the Government was defeated. The result is to be a Committee of Inquiry into the mode of assessing the income tax. We are perfectly aware of how little is to be hoped from Committees of Inquiry in general, nor are we sanguine of this particular Committee. But Mr. Hubbard's motion was accompanied by a plan for reconstructing the incidence of the tax, which plan could not fairly be considered apart from his motion; and therefore, in sanctioning the one, the House of Commons expressed a certain agreement with the other. The principle advocated by Mr. Hubbard, on the authority of the late Mr. Wilson, is, that income should be regarded, not at its nominal amount, but in proportion as it is available for immediate expenditure; "because," to use Mr. Wilson's language, "it is in exactly that relation that it would have contributed to revenue under the system of customs and excise duties, which the income tax has replaced to a certain extent." Thus, a man who derives five hundred a year from vested property, annuities, and so forth, has five hundred pounds of available income. But the lawyer, the physician, the artist, the author, who earns five hundred a year by sheer work, must look forward to a time when he may earn not half that sum, or when sickness may stop his resources altogether. If he be a man of ordinary prudence, he sets aside a portion of his present earnings to meet the probabilities of the future; and whatever sum he does so set aside is obviously not available for immediate expenditure. The difference between the cases is palpable enough. Mr. Hubbard proposes to make an abatement from the tax on those precarious incomes which cease when the labour ceases, and which have to be curtailed while they last in order to provide for the future.

Mr. Gladstone—who is a financier, as Mr. Wilson was—may be right in denying the justice of such a reduction, and even in the opinion he expressed on Tuesday that the tax is incapable of improvement; but the country holds very different views. Of nothing is it more convinced than that the income tax is levied unequally and unjustly; and until the Government recognises the distinction between industrial incomes and "lazy incomes," as they have been called, the impost will always generate discontent and provoke evasion. At the same time we think an abatement less than that proposed by Mr. Hubbard on behalf of industrial incomes (33 per cent) would satisfy the honest public, without believing that there would be an end of fraudulent returns, even were the assessment reduced by half. Mr. Hubbard is a little too sanguine on this point. No doubt his impression is correct, that many men, who, believing themselves taxed unreasonably, hand over to the collector whatever satisfies their sense of justice, would continue to pay this sum under a reduced assessment; but in cases where a falsification of their returns by forty or fifty per cent satisfies their sense of justice they are not likely to increase the payment because the Government has abated its demand. Besides, who would declare that hitherto he had been defrauding the State, by straightway returning his income at thirty-three per cent higher than it had ever been returned before? Not those—and there are many of them in all communities—who never pay more than they are obliged.

This, however, is the radical evil and weakness of the tax, however assessed; it promotes lying, and would nationalise dishonesty among the most moral people the world ever knew.

But, because the tax invites evasion, that is no reason why it should be levied unjustly. The only result in such a case must be to cast a double burden on the honest taxpayer. His income is unfairly rated in comparison with that of the annuitant next door, while his scruples oblige him to contribute to the State a sum proportionately twice as large, perhaps, as that which the opposition lawyer over the way pays or, indeed, nine tenths of his neighbours. If we consider that, if all incomes were fairly returned, a tax of sixpence in the pound would probably produce as large a sum as the Government collects at the present rate, we see at once how much is added unfairly to the burden which honesty (already oppressed) has to bear. The last of these evils, however, can never be avoided. So long as the income tax exists it will be evaded, and honesty will be embittered wherever it is found. The former evil can be abated; and therefore we view the appointment of Mr. Hubbard's Committee with satisfaction, if with little hope. It is valuable, at any rate, as showing the temper of the House on this question; and as an indication that we need not fear an aggravation of the tax, if we dare not hope for its reduction.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE PRINCE CONSORT, accompanied by Princess Alice and the youthful members of the Royal family, propose to leave Buckingham Palace on Tuesday next for Osborne, where the Queen and Court will remain a fortnight.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, it is said, has offered the ex-King and Queen of Naples the Château de Pau if they think proper to pass some time in France. Their Majesties, now in Rome (according to the telegraphic message of the French Ambassador at that city), have not expressed any intention as regards their future plans.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has given orders that the so-called "Schwarz-Spanier" Church, which for many years has been used as a magazine, shall be given to the Vienna Protestants as a place of worship.

ABD-EL-KADER is expected in France. The Emir is said to have assured Foad Pacha that he has no thought of coming forward as his rival for the Pacha of Syria.

M. BONAPARTE-PATERSON has been unanimously chosen a member of the Paris Jockey Club.

THE VICKROY OF EGYPT'S LITTLE SON TOUSSOUN PACHA, having now attained the mature age of seven years, enters upon the enjoyment of a separate establishment of his own. Towards its formation, he has already been presented with a couple of Circassian female slaves, while the English nurse under whose charge he has hitherto been is about to be discharged.

AT BREMEN the association for obtaining commercial liberty, which was formed in 1854, but which from want of general support was allowed to drop, has just been revived.

THE DEATH OF TERENCE BELLEVUE M'MANUS, "the patriot exile of 1848," is announced as having taken place on the 15th ult. at San Francisco.

A PRIVATE of one of the regiments in garrison at Dover, escaping from a picket in close pursuit of him, jumped from the cliff beyond Arcehelf Fort, a height of nearly 100 feet. On being picked up he was found to be alive, but the injuries received preclude hope of his recovery.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., has been compelled to leave town by the sudden illness of a near relative.

SIR WILLIAM BURNETT died on the 16th inst., at the advanced age of eighty-two. He was appointed a medical officer in the Navy in 1795. He was present at the battles of Cape St. Vincent, at the Nile, and at Trafalgar, for which services he was made a K.C.B., and decorated with four war medals.

M. SECRETARY MOCQUARD has joined the Paris "Dramatic Authors' Society," and is a regular recipient of his profits, through that agency, as a working playwright.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY has appointed Monday, the 25th of March, for the consecration of the Rev. Dr. Henry Philpott, who has been elected by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester to the bishopric of that diocese.

HER MAJESTY held a second levée at St. James's Palace on Wednesday. It was most numerously attended.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND raised its rate of discount to eight per cent on Thursday week—a step which has excited much surprise, and drawn forth some severe criticisms.

THE GLOIRE and the ship of the line *Algeiras* have been out practising firing on every tack and at all rates of speed as high as thirteen knots an hour. It is said that in every position the *Gloire* maintained her superiority, and it is only during very bad weather that it is found necessary to moderate her speed when firing.

IN THE SPANISH CHAMBER lately a dispute arose between the Minister of the Interior and certain deputies. The latter were so irritated that they proposed a motion declaring that "they had heard with disgust that the Minister make an announcement which he must have known to be false;" but it came to nothing.

LADY EVANS, wife of General Sir De Lacy Evans, died yesterday week of bronchitis. Lady Evans was first married to Captain Hughes, H.E.I.C.S.; she was daughter of the late Colonel R. Arbuthnot.

THE POPE has sent, through his Nuncio at the Hague, the sum of 10,000 fl. to the fund which is being raised for the relief of the sufferers from the recent inundations in Holland.

THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS, of which the Archbishop of Canterbury is president, have determined upon the establishment of a Christian mission at Pekin.

LORD CAMPBELL says he himself heard a Judge at Stafford thus sentence a prisoner to death for forgery:—"And I trust, though the merits and mediation of our blessed Redeemer, you may experience that mercy in another world which a due regard to the credit of the paper currency of the country forbids you to hope for here."

THE GREAT WANT OF OFFICERS IN THE CORPS OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS has determined the authorities to allow a certain number of the junior officers of artillery who last received commissions at Woolwich to transfer their services to the sister service.

A COTTON CONVENTION was to have been held at Atlanta, Georgia, on the 13th of February, with the object of enabling the South to export spun cotton to the leading Powers of Europe.

MAJOR-GENERAL HENRY EYRE, now commanding at Chatham, will probably succeed to the office of Inspector-General of Infantry, shortly to be vacated by Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Love.

GENERAL BENEDEK lately paid a visit to Trieste to inspect the garrison and fortifications. He gave a grand banquet there, at which half of the guests were private soldiers. A toast to the Emperor of Austria was drunk with enthusiasm.

THE ADVICES BY THE AFRICAN MAIL report that an expedition was fitting out at Sierra Leone to punish the King of Badabor for plundering some British traders.

MR. EDMUND OLDFIELD has withdrawn from the Department of Antiquities in the British Museum. The trustees have accepted his resignation.

PASSEPORTS must be shown by Englishmen entering France from any other direction than England.

A FRENCH COMPANY appears to have got a concession of some considerable wharfage on the harbour of Lisbon, and mean to dig docks, &c. The *Patrie* augurs thence the downfall of British traffic with Portugal.

THE MARQUIS OF BRADALBANCK, K.T., has been selected by the Queen to proceed on a special mission to invest his Majesty the King of Prussia with the Order of the Garter.

THERE IS TO BE A MEDAL FOR CHINA for both the wars against that empire; and claps for Pekin and Canton.

THE oft-repeated rumour that Lord John Russell is about to retire to the more tranquil regions of the Peerage is revived.

THE RETURN OF COLONEL BATHURST for South Wiltshire, which took place last week, makes the extraordinary number of Eton men in the House of Commons 105 out of 648 or 650.

SIR LEOPOLD M'CLINTOCK was presented on Thursday week, at a public meeting in Dublin, with a splendid service of plate.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE HALLAM MEMORIAL FUND, having examined the models sent in by various sculptors for a statue to be erected in St. Paul's, have unanimously selected the design of Mr. Theed.

THE *Liverpool Albion* has "excellent authority for believing that the Government may be induced, if extensively memorialised, to supply volunteer uniforms (scarlet or blue) at cost price, which is one-third less than any contractor can supply, and the material superior."

A COMMITTEE has just been formed at Gotha, under the presidency of the regent Duke, to collect the funds necessary for the expedition that is to go in search of Dr. Edward Vogel, or at any rate to rescue the results of his investigations. This expedition will take three or four years.

THE COMPLETION OF THE DRY DOCK AT PEMROKE being urged on night and day, relays of men relieving each other every twelve hours. When finished it will be capable of accommodating the largest ship in the British Navy.

GUEST PERSONS, writing to a friend in England, defends the exile of the editor of the *Courrier du Dimanche*, on the ground that he is justified in separating the liberty of discussing the affairs of the country from the liberty of attacking its fundamental institutions.

BY DIRECTION OF THE ADMIRALTY, the members of the dockyard police force who were discharged on the occasion of the metropolitan police being appointed to Woolwich Dockyard have been superannuated on pensions ranging from £10 3s. to 32s. per annum.

A MEMORIAL, signed by a large number of influential persons, has been presented to Lord Palmerston asking for an increase of the episcopate.

GREAT EFFORTS are being made to effect a complete telegraphic communication between St. Petersburg and the Caucasus. This is already united to Rott by telegraphic wires.

A COLossal STATUE OF DANIEL MANIN is to be erected, in May, in the Piazza Maria Teresa at Turin; and, later in the year, statues in honour of the wife and mother of the King.

MISS HELEN FAUCIT concluded a brief engagement at the Queen's Theatre, Edinburgh, yesterday week. The house was crowded to excess. The play was "As you Like It," in which the part of Rosalind was sustained by Miss Faucit.

THE FOUNDATION is being laid in Paris of new Imperial stables. The city of Paris is to bear the expense of these new buildings in return for the ground on which the old Ecuries du Louvre stood. The stables are to be finished in a style of magnificence superior to anything of the kind yet seen.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has decided that a statue shall be erected at Pau to the late Marshal Bugeot; and, as the Marshal's mother has no private fortune, the Emperor has granted her a pension of 6000fr.

THE HEALTH OF CARDINAL WISEMAN continues to progress satisfactorily.

THE GREAT EASTERN is to leave England the first week in March for Norfolk, in Virginia, where she has been guaranteed a cargo, chiefly of cotton, for England, the freight of which will amount to 75,000 dols.

THE DEATH OF EUGENE SCRIBE, the young French dramatist, is reported.

AT A MEETING OF THE WHITBY LOCAL COMMITTEE held on Wednesday it was unanimously decided to place their life-boat establishment under the management of the National Life-boat Institution, and to accept its offer to station there forthwith one of its best first-class life-boats, a transporting-carriage, and other equipments, including efficient life-belts for the crew of the boat.

AN ENGLISH COMPANY is negotiating with M. Lesseps for the land in Egypt which belongs to the company for cutting the canal to Suez. It appears that this land is well suited to the cultivation of cotton.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE division on the motion of Mr. Hubbard to appoint a Select Committee to consider the subject of the incidence of the income tax was a very curious one. It was what is called in the House of Commons "a cross division;" and cross enough it was, for never in my recollection was there such a jumble of parties in the lobbies. Whigs, Radicals, and Tories were mixed together in the strangest confusion—Sir John Pakington side by side with Mr. Williams, of Lambeth; Lord Hotham almost arm in arm with Mr. Whately. Disraeli did not vote. Having still an eye to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, he did not wish to incur himself with the responsibility of approving a policy which he might hereafter find it difficult to carry out. Mr. Walpole also left the House before the division came on. Whilst listening to the speech of Mr. Gladstone you would, under the fascination of his eloquence, imagine that a more just and equal rating to the income tax is an impossibility; but it is right to notice that that clear-headed, practical financier, Mr. Wilson, thought otherwise, and went so far as to draw out a scheme of rating to remedy the grievances complained of. Let not, however, the sufferers by the unjust imposition of this tax expect that anything will be done at present to relieve them. The Committee will be appointed, but it will not report this year, and perhaps not next in time to make any changes. Gladstone was never more eloquent than he was on Tuesday night, albeit his old enemy has again got him by the throat. There was no whipping for this division. Indeed, whipping was impossible, for the most sagacious whip could not tell how any man would vote. Accidents like these may be constantly expected during this Session, in the present loose and disorganised state of the House.

Lord Palmerston has a very difficult game to play, and I am not sure that he is playing it well. He seems to me to be pursuing the old policy of 1857 and '58, which led to his defeat in 1857, and to his overthrow in the following year. Instead of smoothing down the ruffled plumes of the Radicals he snubs and ridicules them, evokes cheers from the Opposition, relying upon his enemies to support him against his friends; and I should not be surprised if, on some important question, his left flank, exasperated by his conduct, were to wheel round in a body and leave him to his fate. With judicious handling, I think he might manage to induce the Radicals to give up Reform for a Session, but the noble Lord is not judicious. He will have his joke, let what may be the consequence. He should, however, remember that these jokes of his, though they throw the House into a roar of laughter, terribly offend the *amour propre* of those at whom they are launched. I do not believe, however, that the Conservatives have any wish at present to disturb the Government. Their position, it must be remembered, is very different to that which they occupied in 1858. Then they had a dissolution of Parliament as a last resort; but, as this is their Parliament, they could not, of course, under any circumstances, advise a dissolution; whereas if Palmerston were to be defeated on a vital question he could, and no doubt would, dissolve.

Mr. Charles Edward Forster, whom Eradford has sent to Parliament in the room of Mr. Titus Salt, is considered to be a great addition to the Radical power of the House. His father was that Matthew Forster the Quaker who believed that he had, in the language of his sect, "a call" to traverse the world to do good—went, and with untiring zeal and benevolence fulfilled his mission. His son is, however, not a Quaker, but a Churchman of the broad school. He married the daughter of Dr. Arnold who, perhaps, may be styled the founder of this school. The hon. member has not yet spoken in the House; but report says that he is an able, strong-minded man, and can speak well.

The Earl of Aberdeen lies still (for aught that is known to the contrary) hopelessly ill at Thebes. He was travelling in Egypt for his health, when the disease which has so long afflicted him arrested his progress. Mr. Arthur Gordon, who was lately defeated at the Aberdeenshire election, started off some fortnight ago to see his brother. It was probably his brother's affliction necessitating his journey which induced him so resolutely to refuse to stand for his native county. If he had consented, and been present at the hustings, in all probability he would have been returned, for, as it was, he was defeated by only 150 votes.

A heavily and most respectfully signed memorial has proved valueless, and Lord Palmerston has determined on accepting Mr. Turnbull's forced resignation. The Shaftesbury lever was put into play—as it always is in any theological matter—and the Premier consented to be made a puppet in the hands of bigotry. Not that Mr. Turnbull's appointment can easily be defended: he is avowed by many of his supporters to be what he was described, a fanatic, and fanatics are never desirable persons in the exercise of public functions. As to his power of falsifying history, the Turkish word "boh" is the best comment on that assertion. Calendarising the State records, the duty on which Mr. Turnbull was engaged, means

making a *procès* of the State papers, and this *procès* is, or should be, duly checked. Mr. Folkard hit upon exactly a parallel case when he brought forward the name of Mr. Panizzi: that gentleman is better known than Mr. Turnbull, and is universally respected, but the so-called Protestant Alliance have as good grounds for hunting him out of the situation, and Lord Palmerston could adduce exactly the same reasons for being glad to be rid of him.

In a modest, manly letter, Mr. Cobden declines accepting the bounty for which certain Glasgow gentlemen proposed to constitute themselves subscription-receivers, and completely takes the sting out of the *Times* article which I alluded to last week.

Politicians are burned in effigy sometimes, but I scarcely think that before last week there was a case on record of a popular periodical writer being made the object of an "indignation meeting." Such an honour has recently been accorded to Mr. John Hollingshead, the well-known *feuilletoniste*, who was last month engaged as special correspondent for the *Morning Post*, and who in that journal depicted the actual moral and social condition of many of our slums under the title "London Horrors." Among other places, Mr. Hollingshead visited Agar-town, and gave a graphic description of what he saw there. The same locality was described in precisely a similar strain in a paper published in *Household Words* in 1851, entitled "A Suburban Connemara." The natives of this delectable place were in high dudgeon at the *raisonnement* of Mr. Hollingshead's picture, and late last week called an "indignation meeting" to protest against his article. At the meeting some fifty people assembled (the population is about 10,000), and talked fine potherhouse nonsense. The truth seems to be that the Midland Railway Company are in treaty for a portion of the ground and the landlords fear a depreciation of the property. Any one knowing Mr. Hollingshead personally, even any one merely acquainted with him through the medium of his writings, must feel that plain, unswerving, downright honest description is his forte—that stretch of fancy and exaggerated illustration can by no means be classed among his literary faults, and that he is thoroughly incapable of the slightest attempt at dramatic colouring to heighten what he intends as a literal picture. No writer living, not even Mr. Dickens himself, has shown a greater sympathy with the honest struggling poor than has Mr. Hollingshead. No man has a greater horror of sham; but he is a writer who will tell the truth at all hazards, and will show up an inactive, dirty, lazy costermonger as readily as he would a jobbing placemaker.

A new story by the author of "Adam Bede," fully up to the expected standard in power and interest, is said to be completed, and will properly be published about Easter.

In the *Publishers' Circular*, always well informed, we read:—"The March number of *Temple Bar* will contain an article on 'Giants and Dwarfs,' by Professor Ansted; a Paper on the 'Management of Servants,' by the author of 'Thieves and Thieving,' in the *Cornhill*; a Review of Motley's 'History of the Netherlands,' by Viscount Bury, M.P.; and an Essay by Mr. John Hollingshead."

Mr. Robert Chambers will shortly leave Edinburgh and take up his residence in London, assuming the management of the London branch of Messrs. Chambers's establishment.

There is not the smallest truth in the report printed by a contemporary that Mr. Horace St. John has left the *Daily Telegraph* to undertake the editorship of Mr. Stiff's new *Daily London Journal*. The announcement of the appearance of the last-named journal is entirely apocryphal.

** In some observations on the Disraeli-Brodie case which appeared in the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* for Aug. 25 of last year the following passages occurred:—

For a long time he (Brodie) was held to be a simple-minded, injured man; but his "discreetness" before the Berwick Commission show that he is dangerous, and those who used to think that there really was something in his case begin to believe that there was ample reason for his dismissal both from the Army and his subsequent position at Weedon. My own opinion is, decidedly, that the man is "cracked."

But what shall we say of Mr. Donald Nicol, who figures so conspicuously in this business? Knowing Brodie, as he must have done—for Brodie was in his employ for some months—it is astounding that he should have placed the smallest reliance upon the Sergeant's statements.

Mr. Brodie having formally complained of these observations, we have no hesitation in retracting whatever may be considered offensive or injurious contained in them; and we may further state that we neither had nor have the slightest personal feeling against Mr. Brodie, and that we regret the insertion of the paragraphs he complains of.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"Latest Intelligence, Abroad and at Home," is the title of a new entertainment produced this week at the BLYTH THEATRE, and given by Mr. George Case, well known as an excellent performer on the concertina, and his wife, who is new to a London audience. The entertainment is of the usual class, filled with such characters as are utterly improbable, "people we have never met," but affording scope for clever personation, and, best of all, sufficiently amusing to prevent those listening to them from being bored.

Mrs. Case has youth and much personal attraction, she is a clever mimic, a graceful dancer, and sings with a small but sweet and telling voice. She acts, too, with animation, and infuses great spirit into all she does—especially into one song, "The Volunteers of the Island." Mr. Case's concertina and violin playing is most excellent, and agreeably fills up the time when his wife is necessarily absent from the stage.

FRENCH SPOILS FROM CHINA.—The articles taken from the Summer Palace at Peking, and offered to the Emperor and Empress by the army in China, are exhibited in the Pavillon Marais in the Tuileries. Visitors especially remark among them several gigantic vases in enamel of different colours; a magnificent pagoda in bronze gilt, chased, and several idols in gold and enamel, with singular features and postures; also a figure seated on an astride, with the splendid costume of a Chinese Emperor, consisting of several garments placed one above the other, some decked with gold, others with steel, and all surmounted by a silk mantle of the Imperial yellow colour, richly embroidered and decked with buttons of gold and precious stones. On the head of the figure is a helmet in gold and steel, having somewhat the shape of a tiara, and terminating in a long steel point. Two sceptres of gold, ornamented with jade, are to be seen; they are in the form of the letter C very much lengthened. There are likewise two figures of monsters in gilt copper, each of which weighs at least 300 kilograms, and is of such complicated workmanship that wonder is felt how it could have been cast in one piece, as it evidently has been. There is also a large vase of the purest Imperial yellow, ornamented with representations of branches of a tree of a charming green colour. Some blinds of extraordinary dimensions are also remarked. The same gallery also contains a fine collection of ancient armour of Europe which belonged to the cabinet of Prince Solikoff. There are in all about forty suits, which occupy all one side of the gallery.

AN AFRICAN EXPLORER.—Considerable excitement has been created among our naturalists and geographers by the startling discoveries recently made in Central Africa by a gentleman now in London, Mr. Chayllon, a gentleman of mixed French and American blood, who, availing himself of the facilities given by his position as son of a consular officer, near the Gabon River, has penetrated across the African continent on the line of the Equator, and has there discovered, in a densely wooded region, a range of lofty mountains (one peak calculated by him at 12,000 feet), which contain, according to his conviction, the sources of the four great rivers of the African continent—the Nile, the Niger, the Zambesi, and the Zaire, or Congo. The map shows this region still a blank. Livingstone just got up to the edge of it from the south. In the course of his travels Mr. Chayllon has passed through the Gorilla country, where he had numerous encounters with these giant apes, of which he has brought back many skulls and skeletons, as well as some sixty new birds, and twenty-five new mammalia, including a magnificent antelope of great size, with red skin, ringed with zebra-like lines. Mr. Chayllon is about to read a paper giving an outline of his discoveries to the Geographical Society, and his book will be published by Mr. John Murray in the course of the season. The British Museum will probably become the purchasers of many of this enterprising traveller's skeletons, skins, and specimens.

TRAVELLING IN INDIA.

Who has not heard of the "palankeen"?—that Oriental receptacle for human transportation in the East, peculiar more especially to Hindostan—originally a simple, open litter—gorgeously gilt and decorated, and devoted to Kings, Princes, Governors, Rulers, the high and mighty of the land; with its gorgeous canopy of coloured cloth to afford protection from the piercing rays of an Indian sun; its long gilt poles, having the front one elaborately and scientifically carved? Then the richly-cushioned seat on which the supple Indian twisted his nether limbs and reposed, smoking his hookah, whilst a crowd of tagrag-and-bobtail swarmed round with stately fans and huge flappers, formed of snow-white bullocks' tails, with which they agitated the air and scared away obtrusive insects. Who has not seen illustrations of these Eastern conveyances, forming a portion of every pageant, and constituting no mean object of attraction, in every gathering of Oriental potentates?

Such elaborate "chairs of state" are, however, in our day but rarely to be seen. Maybe, when some Governor-General visits the provinces, and a native Prince comes forth to do homage in all the glories of his tinsel splendour, some of these ancient conveyances may be disembowelled from the sheds where for years they have been mouldering and, furnished up, come forth all brilliant for the occasion; but European civilisation has almost annihilated them; and, wherever the blessings of good roads have fallen upon the country, even the Oriental, who is the quintessence of all that is conservative, adopts the modern carriage drawn by horses.

Long before good roads, however, had been introduced by the English, and while the Eastern style of travelling was rendered indispensable, the gorgeous and fantastic sedan-chair was Europeanised, and rendered far more serviceable. If bereft of its golden honours, its crimson coverings, and its meandering pole, it was made to enjoy the practical advantage of having panelled sides with sliding doors, a double roof that bid defiance to the solar beams, glazed windows and venetians, thickly-cushioned mattress and pillow, together with the corresponding advantage of a shelf and drawers, nettings, and such other adjuncts as gratify the wayfarer, so that, as Fate compelled a human being to be carried on four men's shoulders, Fate must be compelled to acknowledge that the means devised to render that performance as agreeable as possible under the circumstances were unquestionably carried out with laudable results.

But such palankeens duly equipped for the journey became ponderous machines, under which the verdant beholder might imagine the slight-limbed "bearers" would inevitably sink. But no; it is a fact worthy of scientific investigation which we now record, and that is, that the heavier the "palki," as it is designated by the Anglo-Indian, the faster it is borne along, although the odds are in favour of the bearers stumbling many a time and oft, and bringing down traveller, conveyance, and all in a frightful crash—a catastrophe that may occur a dozen times in the night.

The next reform in locomotive conveyances was the idea of hoisting the "palkis" on to wheeled trucks, and having them drawn and propelled by the natives, instead of having them carried on their shoulders. This was decidedly a move in the right direction, and wherever the roads had been macadamised or metalled, as is done in India, the traction was easy and the pace good; but few travellers, and especially those who had to journey elsewhere than on the main trunk lines, found good roads, and then, when the sandy, unbeaten track was reached, all hope of progress was baffled.

The last phase in the "palki" is the artful arrangement in which the truck and the conveyance itself are from two distinct members merged into one, constituting what is called the "Palankeen Carriage," which naturally becomes as light again, and, as sharp turnings are not needed, and high wheels are of material advantage, the vehicle having all four wheels of similar diameter, and thence termed an "Equirota," became highly favoured. Even on deep sandy roads these conveyances could be propelled almost as fast as the original palankeen, while on good roads they ran "like oil," so that travelling by equirota became the established link between the palankeen borne on shoulders and the locomotive on the rail, which is now appearing in the East, struggling to be introduced amidst ten thousand opposing difficulties, financial, political, local, and circumstantial.

What reader of Indian debates has not heard of the Grand Trunk Road of India, which for years has acted as the buffer for the Hon. Company when any factious opposition has charged the Indian Government with having done nothing to perpetuate the English rule but the strewing of the face of the country with broken beer bottles? Then was the Grand Trunk Road sure to be thrown in his teeth, 800 miles of broad, metalled road, fully bridged, running continuously from Calcutta to Delhi, and in further course of construction for 500 more to Peshawar. We can safely say that the fact is almost correct, and that for hundreds of miles it does run uninterceptedly save by a few mighty gaps, such as a hiatus at the River Son, of some three miles, which remain unbridged to this day. But the passage is made "practicable," and rival companies have established themselves for the conveyance of passengers from Calcutta to Delhi and Umballa, a thousand miles, which distance is traversed at an average speed of seven miles an hour. The horses (or rather ponies, for the animals found to answer best were the common grasscutters' ponies, which have the best blood in India, and, the road being as smooth as a bowling-green, not much weight or muscle is needed) are changed at every five miles, and little mercy is shown to those unfortunate beasts. When a pony has done his stage he is forthwith led back again, the possibility of remaining there to do the back stage on the next occasion being rendered impossible from the system by which the animals are provided, different natives contracting to horse certain miles in a certain direction.

Our first sketch represents a family party starting on their expedition. Papa, mamma, and two children occupy the interior, a native female shares with the driver his box-seat, while the attendant horse-keeper runs alongside or clings on periodically to any point of refuge that he finds agreeable to the obtaining of a perch.

The start is generally favourable. As the choicest and most highly trained quadrupeds, and those evincing serenity of disposition with sweetness of temper, are invariably selected for cantonnements, the traveller inexperienced in this mode of locomotion is soothed with the pleasing hope that the progress will be one of uninterrupted harmony and success. But wait till he gets into the rural districts. He has had his pony exchanged for a gaunt, vicious, old troop horse which his master has recently purchased for a few coppers, a small horse too, just charger weight only—viz., 14.2, but with a superfluous allowance of determination, evinced by the whites of his eyes. They have been breaking him in, but with such little success that, in place of progression, his views seem to be to upset the vehicle, hurl the terrified ayah high into air, and then back the vehicle over the embankment. And now mark the Oriental appliances for refractory animals so disposed. A twitch applied to the nose, a rope lashed round the foreleg, uplifting it to prevent retrogression and promote progression; thwacks, whacks, cuts, punctures, cudgellings, lacerations—but with little effect; for the operators weary sooner than the animal operated upon. However, the steed invariably changes its determination of a sudden, and dashes off with frightful rapidity; but (as in the illustration on the next page) the shaft is broken, and the only remedy is to remove the obstreperous brute, lash on a bamboo, harness in a pony of a more amiable disposition, and so make way.

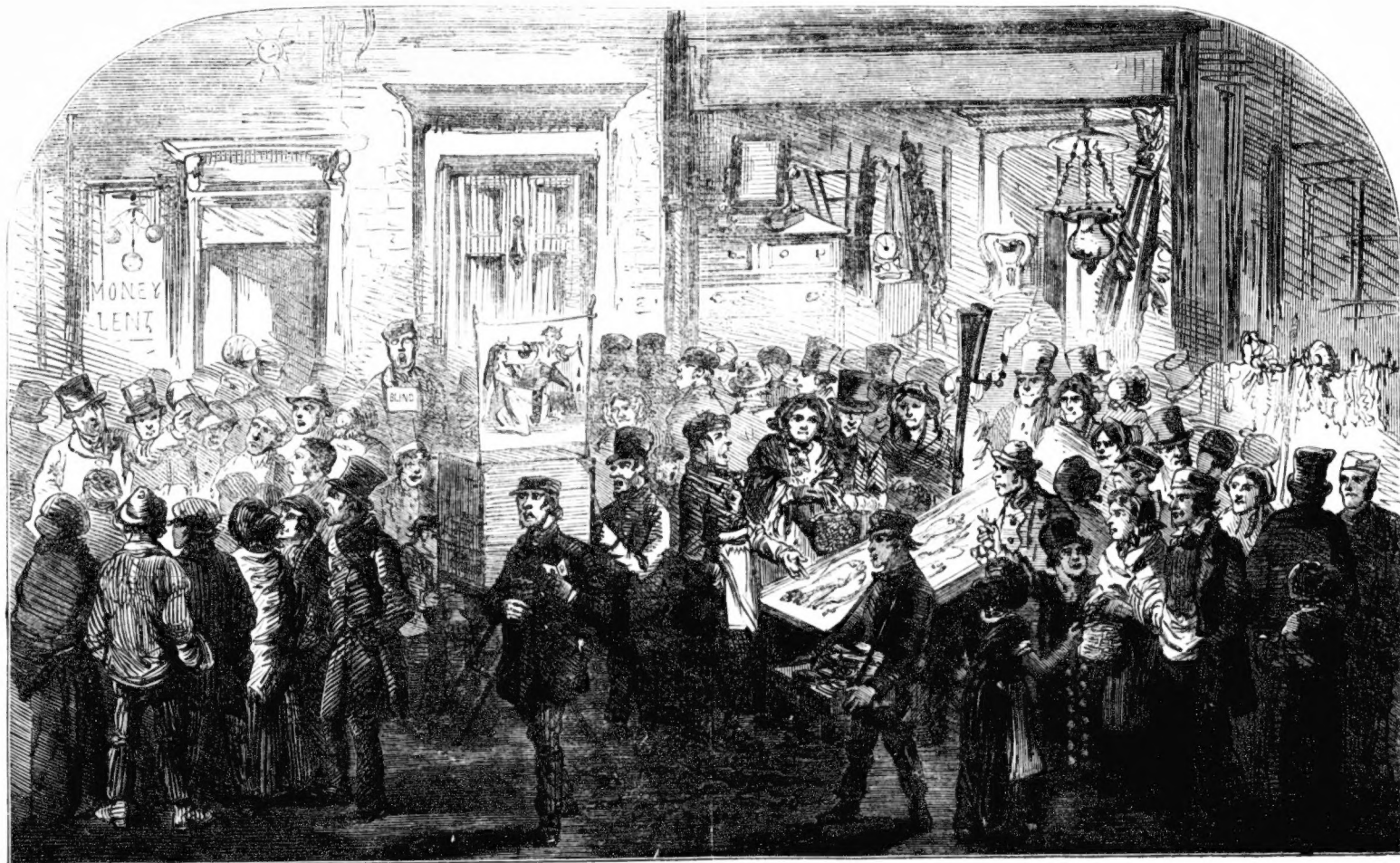
Thus by dint of exercising patience, forbearance, and so forth, the traveller will eventually reach his destination. Only novitiates on the road trouble themselves in such matters; the old stager knows he cannot be of the slightest use, so lies tranquil and resigns himself to his fate, smokes his cheroot, continues reading his book, and never dreams of jumping out. Even if the vehicle (as the chances are it will do ere it has run its 1000 miles) be hurled over a drain-bridge or capized into a field, he merely holds on all the tighter and puts a greater faith in his "Bon Dieu."



TRAVELLING IN INDIA.—A FAMILY PARTY SETTING OUT



TRAVELLING IN INDIA.—A REFRACTORY STEED—



LONDON SKETCHES. NO. 4—SQUALORS' MARKET.

SQUALORS' MARKET.

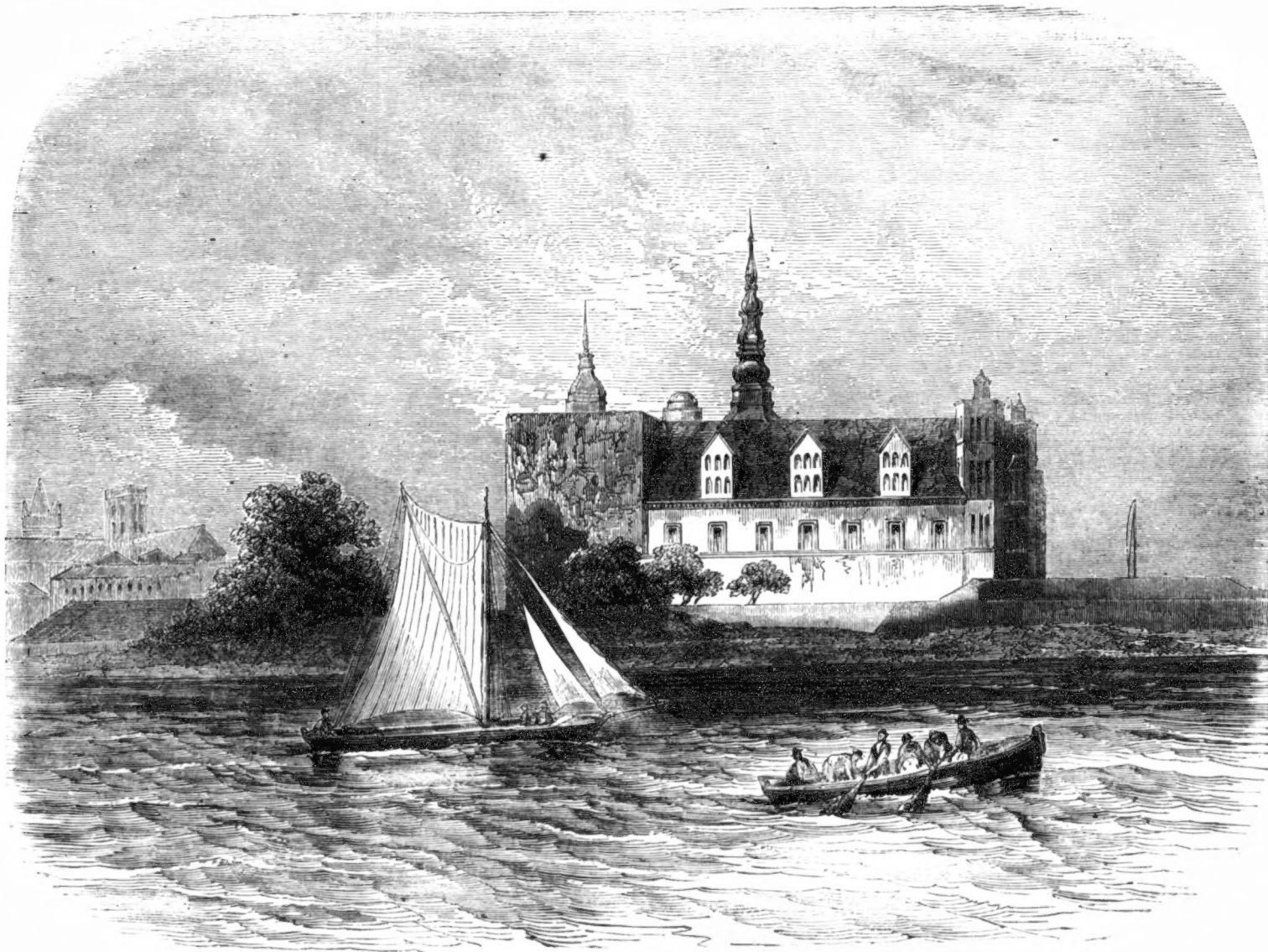
EXACTLY opposite each other stands a church and a gin-palace. The former is dedicated to Saint Luke; the latter to his head merely, and stands sentinel at the corner of Squalors' Market. Just as it was growing dusk, and the potman pertaining to the palace was kindling the gorgeous outside lamps, I passed under his tall ladder and into the narrow and sinuous thoroughfare.

The business of the evening was yet young. The naphtha-man's white horse, harnessed in the evil-smelling cart, was still in the highway, and the naphtha-man, carrying his big can and clinking his measures, had still a goodish many stallkeepers to serve; the second-hand shoemaker was busily arranging along the kerb, and in single file, his dissipated regiment of "wellingtons" and "bluchers," administering a little more blacking to this one to make its patches seem less patchy, and solicitously patting and caressing that whose constitution was so fatally undermined that, for all its blooming

appearance, it would succumb before a day's wear, and part body and sole; the Hebrew who sold cloth caps and slippers was idly chatting with the Hebrew who, having nicely arranged his brummagem jewellery, had nothing else (but customers) to do; the "unfortunate miner" was, with his afflicted wife, partaking of a final whet of rum at the "Black Boy" before taking their stand—their five sleekly-combed but starving children for the present larking in the gutter—while from out the horrible courts and alleys—head-quarters of fever and pestilence—came pouring great stores of cabbages and turnips, and fruit and shellfish—the latter looking none the more refreshed for their night's repose beneath the truckle bedstead, and the former yet tearful from their long soaking in grimy tubs in the cellar. Besides these, there likewise streamed out from the courts and alleys "trotters" and hot penny-puddings, and "ham sandwiches" for the delight of the most dainty of the thousand, who would presently crowd every inch of road and footway.

Of the two hundred and twenty houses of which Squalors' Market is composed, *one in every thirteen* is devoted to the sale of intoxicating liquors, and it must be borne in mind that in this calculation are not included several public-houses that, skulking in crooked chinks and under dark archways, although deprived of the manifest advantages enjoyed by their seventeen brethren in the open highway, yet by means of a beckoning claw in shape of a signboard, affixed at the mouth of the court or alley, "To the George and Dragon," "Back way to the Chip in Porridge," &c., manage to trap many drinkers of the sly and sneaking sort.

That bread even is less in demand in Squalors' Market than gin and beer is demonstrated by the fact that but *ten bakers' shops* can there find support. The catsmeat interest is liberally represented, no less than five establishments of that character flourishing in the market. How is this? Do the squalid court and alley dwellers, with their proverbial extravagance, each keep a cat or — No; the supposi-



THE CASTLE OF KRONBURG, ELSINORE.

tion is too dreadful. Besides, it should be fairly stated that the five horseflesh-dealers vend sheep's heads, split and baked, and the livers of bullocks, and other offal.

The butchers of Squalors' Market number two less than the gin and beer sellers, and are dear reader, by no means quiet, well-behaved creatures, such as you are acquainted with. Your butcher wears a hat, generally a genteel hat, and a blue coat, and a respectable apron; perhaps even snowy sleeves and shiny boots, and a nice bit of linen collar above his neckerchief. You give your orders and he receives them decorously, and wishes you good morning as you quit his neatly-arranged and sawdusted shop. Contrasted with him, the butcher of Squalors' Market is a madman—a raving lunatic. He unscrews the burners of his gaspipes, and creates great spouts of flame that roar and waver in the wind in front of his shamble-like premises, endangering the hats of short pedestrians and the whiskers of tall ones; far out from his shop, and attached to roasting-jacks, revolve monstrous pigs' heads and big joints of yellow veal, spiced all over like a porcupine with figure-bearing tickets that announce the few pence per pound for which the meat may be bought. He wears on his head a cap made of the hairy hide of the bison or some other savage beast; his red arms are bare to the elbows, and he roars continuously, "Hi-hi! weigh away—weigh away! the rosy meat at three and half!" "Hi-hi!"—clashing his broad knife against his steel, to keep time. How is it that my butcher is charging me 9d. per lb. for leg of mutton, while Mr. Blolam, here, is charging only 4d.? Is my butcher a rogue, or is Mr. Blolam going headlong to the debtors' prison at the end of his street? I know my butcher to be an honest fellow, and, to judge from appearances, Mr. B. is not the man to bring his sleek, red-handed wife and his glossy children to grief, either by reckless trading or excessive charity. This being the case, let the court and alley dwellers thereabout, rather than regret, rejoice and thank their lucky stars that they have no money wherewith to trade with Mr. Blolam.

The business of the market grows with the night. First come the decent folk—men and their wives, with the chief olive-branch to carry the big basket. Shrewd people are these early birds with an eye to plump worms. It is not, however, till it has grown quite dark, and the gas is lit, and great tongues of naphtha-flame start from crazy lamps, and scorch and lap up the living air greedily, that the buyers come shoaling in. Then the fruit and vegetable mongers give tongue, and roar the quality and price of their various wares with a bullying air, and the brummagem Hebrew jabbers of his rings and brooches; and the secondhand shoeman, having beguiled a gentleman to take off his boot and "try something on," keeps him standing on one leg in the mud (and so he will be kept till he consents to buy a pair of shoes); and the miner and his family, ranged in a row, chant their necessities.

Strolling through the market out of market hours the death of fishmongers at once struck you. True, there are fishshops, five or six of them, but the dealings of the proprietors are almost entirely confined to vending the article in a dried or fried state; one or two of them dabbling in shrimps and periwinkles. Where, however, is the fresh fish—the plaice, the soles, the cod—of which, according to Billingsgate statistics, at least one-half of all that comes to market is consumed by the very poorest of the London population? Now, however, when the business of the market is in full blast, the question no longer exists. Here is the fresh fish, in broad flat wicker baskets slung round the neck, in solitary "pads" standing in the mud, on little boards or trestles, lit up by a feeble candle, and on great boards, eight or ten feet long and six broad, standing on substantial legs, and lit by a great flaring naphtha lamp. The owners of these broad boards are no mean fish-pedlars, standing dumbly behind their wares till a customer happens to call. They are wholesale dealers, fish auctioneers. As many people stand round the board as would fill the largest fishmonger's shop in the metropolis. Yet, excepting a heap of copper money—half-a-peck of it, probably—the board is quite clear. Surrounding the auctioneer, however (who is dressed in corduroy trousers and blue guernsey shirt, the sleeves of which are rolled above the elbows of his great hairy arms), is a large number of "pads" of plaice, and, just behind him, is a big tub full of water. One of his attendants (the generally has two) presently plunges his arms into one of the "pads," brings out a couple of fish, soaks them into the water-tub, and then hands them to his master. Without paying the least attention to the lookers-on the man coolly proceeds to disembowel the fish, to chop through the backbone, to make them handy for the frying-pan, and to thread them on a willow twig. All this while, and unsolicited, the people round are bidding "Threeha'pence!" "tuppence!" "two-un-arf!" "Yours, mum," observes the laconic fishman, handing the fish to the "two-un-arf," and proceeding to disembowel and thread two more. It was curious to observe the various countenances of the bidders and buyers; the eagerness with which some women scrambled over the heads and shoulders of their neighbours to get at their bargains, and with a look that plainly said "the price of these will astonish my Jack, I'll be bound;" while others parted with their halfpence regretfully, and as though conscious of having been a little too hasty in their bidding. Worst of all, however, were the gaunt women with their mites of shawls and ample aprons, and with husband out of work and any number of children, looking out of their anxious eyes as they watch the cutting up of the fish, and whether it be thick or thin. That seems a likely lot! Shall they bid? Better not, perhaps; wait and see the next lot! So they wait till ashamed to wait any longer, and take the "next lot" and chance it.

It is, however, a great consolation to know that these poor mothers may at the worst depend on ample value for their precious halfpence. Soles and plaice were the fish chiefly dealt in by the auctioneers, and the prices they realised were absolutely ridiculous. Soles, for a pair of which Mr. Groves would charge half-a-crown, were disposed of, after a by no means spirited bidding, for threepence-halfpenny. Touching the cheapness of plaice, I can't do better than quote an instance to which I was an eyewitness. A monstrous fellow, broad and thick as a turbot, was fished out of a "pad," cleaned, gutted, and made ready for the pan, and, after all, the price brought was fourpence. "If you aint got him at a 'penny a pound its funny to me," observed the auctioneer, and, a friendly potato salesman's stall adjoining him, he put the fish in his scales. The potato man had no weights of less than a pound, but the fourpenny plaice asserted its superiority to the seven-pound weight, and only consented to a balance when a large potato was added and brought to bear against him.

It is a curious fact—and one more proof of the extravagance of poverty—that in nine cases out of ten the fish purchased was intended for the frying-pan, and not for the pot. It was easy to ascertain this, as whenever a bidder wanted a fish to boil, she signified the same at the time she made her bid. "Thrippence—for bilin!" some one would exclaim; whereon the auctioneer would arrest the descent of his big chopping-knife and deliver the fish entire. Among the squalid poor the same prejudice exists as regards mutton. Fish fried, and mutton baked or roasted, if you please; but as to boiling either, except when ordered by the doctor, the practice is regarded as "ramby-pamby" and French.

This universal fish-frying is the key to another mystery common to the neighbourhood. In every "general shop," in every rag-and-bone shop, in the high street, and in the hundred courts and filthy alleys that worm in and out of it, may be seen solid slabs of a tallowy-looking substance, and marked with a figure 6, 7, or 8, denoting that for as many pence a pound weight of the suspicious-looking slab may be obtained. It is bought in considerable quantities by the fish-eaters for frying purposes, and is by them supposed to be simply and purely the fat dripping of roast and baked meats, supplied to these shops by cooks whose perquisite it is. This, however, is a delusion. The villainous compound is manufactured. There is a "dripping-maker" near Seabright-

street, Bethnal-green, and another in Backchurch-lane, Whitechapel, both flourishing men, and the owners of many carts and sleek cattle. Mutton suet and boiled rice are the chief ingredients used in the manufacture of the slabs, the gravy of bullocks' kidneys being stirred into the mess when it is half cold, giving to the whole a mottled and natural appearance.

"Mine uncle" of Squalors' Market—at least, judging from the only specimen there to be seen—is a totally different character from that generally represented. The pawnbroker elsewhere found is a highly-respectable person, snug and decorous of mien and subdued of voice. His shop is the shop of an ordinary dealer in jewellery and other articles of value, and he only insinuates his real business in the most delicate way by means of a neat plate on his doorpost inscribed with an intimation that he advances money on plate, jewels, &c., and that he has a fireproof room for the safe keeping of your property. The pawnbroker before me, however, is a tall, muscular man, with great brown hands, dressed in a shaggy pilot coat with big bone buttons, and wearing his battered hat well off his expressive countenance. He has none of the modesty peculiar to the craft about him, neither is his shop a modest one, or unobtrusive, but a broad-awake and gas-lit place, as open as any potato-warehouse in the market. Over the shop front, in great yellow letters, is inscribed the word "Pawnbroker," and the proprietor stands in front of it—off the pavement, indeed, and in the road—surrounded by an eager mob, and selling from a basket old odds and ends of wearing apparel, old canvas for towelling, any rag of any sort or shape that will fetch even so low a sum as a penny among the squalid bidders. "Here ye are," says he, with the voice of a Channel pilot, as he dangles by the strings something made of flannel; "here's a perriote! How much for the flannel perriote? 'Tant a new un, and 'tant so far gone but the sides may be turned in the middle, and kiver a body comfortable. Who ses sixpence? Tuppence, eh? Thanky; s'pose you buy taters with your money—it'll fetch more for 'ouse flannels. Goin' for tuppence!—fourpence! Sold again, and got the money."

Where had I before seen this muscular pawnbroker? At the dog show? In the shell-fish department at Billingsgate? On board a bumboat at Portsmouth? No; men very like him at each of the places mentioned, but not he. Now I have it! That "sold again and got the money" settled the point at once. It is a year ago, and he wore a blue apron about his waist, and stood outside a sausage and cheap meat shop in this very market, but the above words were the very ones he uttered as he tossed a pickled pig's head to the young man behind the counter. Now that this circumstance recurred to my memory I no longer wondered to find my friend a pawnbroker! He had a hankering for it at the pig's-head period, and kept, besides the sausage-shop, a "leaving-shop," in Brick-lane, St. Luke's.

Does the good reader know the nature of the "leaving" business? It requires no shop; any back room, cellar, or hovel will suffice for it, and any rascal possessed of a few shillings can start in it. It is a business that can flourish and grow fat in the midst of the most appalling poverty—that does exist, and flourish, and fatten in a thousand alleys and "slums" within the great city of London. It is a simple matter. Being too lazy to work, and having somehow obtained a pound, I take an apartment in a poverty-stricken locality, hang a few odds and ends in my window or against my door-post and put up a ticket announcing that I deal in "ladies and gentlemen's left-off wearing apparel." Presently some "lady" from one of the swarming alleys, hard up for bread or gin, brings me an article of her apparel, or perhaps a pair of still warm and muddy little boots, and requests me to become a purchaser. But no, I'm much too humane for anything of the kind. "Oh don't sell the little boots, ma'am," say I; "take them to the pawnbroker's and pledge them for a trifle." "Shure it's no thrifile at all I can get on 'em at the pawn-office," says my customer, "because the heels are throd down so." "Well, look here," says I; "I'll lend you a shilling on the boots, and, what's more, I'll keep 'em for a month, and you can have them back any time between this and then by paying fourteen pence for them!" The news spreads like fever, and the existence of the new "leaving-shop" is thoroughly known within a week. Within a month of setting up I am doing a roaring trade. Everything too insignificant for the licensed pawnbroker's round the corner is brought to me, and I take the goods in pledge, the depositors well understanding that unless redeemed in a month they are forfeited. As twopence on the shilling is the long-established rate of interest demanded at the surrounding "leaving-shops," of course I can't exact more; however, I do as they do—make up for it on smaller sums. If I lend sixpence on a jacket, sevenpence halfpenny must be paid me before it can be redeemed; and if I lend threepence on the Sunday knives and forks or the Sunday baking-dish, nothing less than fourpence halfpenny redeems it, though I may have held it but a few days or even hours. On the whole, I do a very snug business; and, what is more, I can defy all the Queen's orders and all the Queen's men, for how can the law step between a man and his simple buyings and sellings?—J. G.

CASTLE OF KRONBURG AT ELSINORE.

RECENT political events have brought one of the most ancient kingdoms in Europe into a prominent position. Even now the "State of Denmark," with its antique customs, its picturesque peasantry, and its quaint villages and old houses, reminds us of the time when the "Royal Dane" himself might have fed his speculative melancholy with the concerts which a street in Elsinore might easily suggest. The village itself, with the old chateau represented in our Engraving, is well-ordered and trim enough, and surrounded with a beautiful country, well-timbered; but in the town itself there is very little, save the ancient castle, to attract either the antiquary or the romantic traveller. But it is the very home of wild and romantic legends, and in this little village the marvellous stories have a fitting, natural accompaniment in that atmospheric condition in which the "Fata Morgana"—the mirage—so frequently mocks the vision of the seaman.

SUDBURY'S REPRESENTATIVES.—Sudbury is highly displeased at the continued injustice of her treatment in being still deprived of her representatives in Parliament, and considers that now they ought to be restored. In this mind the borough has determined to come "boldly" to Parliament and "demand" both its members back again. The town of Burnley, also, speaks out in connection with this subject, and complains that a share of the forfeited privileges or rights has not come in her direction. Burnley is determined to inquire into the matter and see if it cannot yet be done.

THE FLEET SEWER ACCIDENT.—The inquiry into the cause of the accident by which four poor fellows lost their lives in a sewer last week was adjourned, for the purpose of making an effort to ascertain how the foul air got introduced, as it was shown satisfactorily that the visitation had taken place suddenly, and was only temporary in its duration. No good evidence on this point, however, could be had, and eventually the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death." The probability seems to be that a deadly gas was generated by some refuse metal-wash suddenly run into the sewer from a neighbouring brassfoundry. The Commissioners of Sewers have pledged themselves to prosecute the investigation, that the recurrence of such a catastrophe may be prevented.

A TRAPPIST TO BE HUNG.—The Court of Assizes of Hainault tried a Trappist monk, whose real name was Robyn, though in the convent he was called Brother Hugo—on a charge of setting fire to the convent of Forges, in October last, by which the church was entirely destroyed and other buildings extensively injured. Hugo acknowledged his guilt from the first, and stated that he had committed the crime in a fit of passion after a sermon by Father Bernard, in which the preacher was especially severe on those members of the order who transgressed the rule of silence. As Hugo was a notorious offender on that point, he regarded these censures as especially directed against himself, and he determined to revenge himself by burning the convent and all its inmates, if possible. That same day he set fire to the building in three places. Fortunately, the prisoner's object was but partially accomplished, as the greater portion of the buildings was saved, and no lives lost. The jury, after a short deliberation, brought in a verdict of "Guilty," and the Court condemned the prisoner to death, and ordered that his execution should take place at Charleroi.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

A NEW version of "Le Domino Noir" (arranged for the English stage by Mr. H. F. Chorley) was produced at the Royal English Opera on Wednesday evening, with remarkable success. The principal part in this charming work is, of course, taken by Miss Louisa Pyne, who sings the music of Angèle to perfection, and who, the first night, was called upon to repeat the air of the first act "Un ange, un fée," "La belle Inès," or "Ines the gay," as Mr. Chorley has it. Mr. Henry Haigh appeared as Horace, the mysterious domino's lover, and sang with his usual taste, though he failed to make anything of the great scene of the third act, which in the hands of Roger used to be really dramatic. Mr. Corri displayed a good deal of humour in the character of Gil Perez; and all the minor parts were tolerably filled (that of Don Julian by Mr. A. St. Albyn, those of Brigitta and Jacintha by Miss Leffler). Still, it is impossible not to observe that the great favour with which this sparkling opera is received is due to the exquisite singing of Miss Louisa Pyne and the admirable manner in which she is supported by the orchestra and the chorus. Compare the performance of "Le Domino Noir" at the Royal English Opera with the best performance of that work which ever took place at the Opéra Comique, and it will be found that at the latter establishment (where the principal artists are as much comedians as they are singers) all the subordinate personages have invariably been represented with spirit; whether or not, the music given to them has been well sung. But we repeat that nothing could be more perfect than the vocalisation of Miss Louisa Pyne in the part of the heroine; and Mr. Mellon's forces were, as usual, irreproachable. A good many conductors would have interpreted the enthusiastic applause at the end of the overture into a demand for its repetition. "Le Domino Noir," played as it is at the Royal English Opera, will doubtless prove more attractive than either the "Fra Diavolo" or the "Diamans de la Couronne" of the same composer have been found in England. Of the three "Le Domino Noir" has always been the most successful in France, and as we, individually, prefer it to the other two, we may safely and sincerely congratulate the Covent Garden management on having revived it.

MR. TURNBULL'S CASE.

A DEPUTATION waited upon Lord Palmerston on Tuesday for the purpose of inducing him not to accept the resignation of Mr. Turnbull as the calendarer of foreign State papers. The memorial, which was read by Professor Pearson, combated the insinuations which have been made against Mr. Turnbull. The memorialists said that they would be quite contented if his Lordship would regard Mr. Turnbull as "an officer who has demanded a court-martial, confront him with his accusers, and grant him a fair field and no favour."

The deputation consisted of the Marquis of Normanby, Captain Jervis, M.P., Mr. James Martineau, Professor Plumtre, of King's College; Mr. Froude, Mr. Hardy, Professor Brewer, Mr. Gairdner, Mr. S. Beale, M.P., Mr. Folkard, Professor Pearson, the Rev. J. Stephenson, and other gentlemen. The memorial was signed by 800 gentlemen, many of them distinguished in the Church, in letters, at the Bar, and at the Universities.

Lord Palmerston said in his reply:—This is a matter which I have had under my attention for a considerable time. First of all, let me say that it does not appear to me a question respecting the exclusion of men from certain appointments on account of their religious opinions. I had representations made to me last year which led me to communicate with the Master of the Rolls, and I had an answer from him. The objection to Mr. Turnbull, as I understand it, is made, not on the ground that as a Catholic he is unfit to be employed by the Government, but that, being a man of high personal honour, and great ability and attainments, he happens, as converts very often are, to be a man also of very extreme opinions—in fact, almost a fanatic. It was thought, therefore, that he was not a person who was likely to bring to the particular duty upon which he was employed that calm judgment and impartial view which are essential in the abstracting and compiling of documents belonging to a period when differences of religious opinion connected with historical events were very strong. I concur in that opinion. I think it was an unfortunate selection. It would not have been difficult to find in the circle of literary men some other person who would be equally competent to perform the duty; and, although I do not in the least doubt that Mr. Turnbull most faithfully abstracted everything which he was ordered to abstract, yet I must say that his position was not altogether that which a man holding very strong opinions—strong opinions, I say, because his published works prove that they are strong—it was not a position in which a man of that frame of mind and of those opinions would feel himself comfortable. When he had to abstract documents relating to religious differences and controversies of former periods, it must have been against the grain to record them if they were unfavourable to the tenets to which he so strongly clung. At the same time, I must observe that Sir John Romilly stated he was satisfied that Mr. Turnbull was a fit person and would do his duty properly; and he said that, unless I desired that he should be dismissed, he should not think of putting the matter into any other hands. Of course I did not feel that there was sufficient ground for that. Well, then came Mr. Turnbull's resignation. I think that Mr. Turnbull acted as a man of honour ought to act under such circumstances. He no doubt felt that, however unjust might be the imputations against him, still, as there was a strong feeling among a large class of the people that he was performing a duty for which he was not fit, it was best to escape from attack, and get out of a place in which the confidence of a large portion of the community was denied to him. He very honourably resigned.

The Marquis of Normanby said the question was one, not of opinions, but of good faith, and the good faith of Mr. Turnbull was proved by the manner in which he had performed his duties. He (the noble Marquis) believed the prejudice against Mr. Turnbull would not have proceeded so far if the Premier had opposed it. As to Sir John Romilly, he had recommended that Mr. Turnbull's resignation should not be accepted.

Lord Palmerston said that was true; but, as he (Lord Palmerston) was the person to determine the question, he judged for himself. He had no doubt that Sir J. Romilly's opinion of Mr. Turnbull's faithfulness was perfectly well founded; and, in accepting the resignation, he did not in the least impute to Mr. Turnbull that he had not most faithfully performed his duty. The question was not one of religious equality; it was whether an individual should perform a duty in which the bias of his mind might influence him. He was told that Mr. Turnbull had even written a panegyric upon Babbington, who conspired against the life of Queen Elizabeth, showing that he regarded that as a chivalrous undertaking; and that he had said he would rather be damned with Papists than be saved with Protestants.

THE FRENCH FORCE IN SYRIA.—There has been laid before Parliament the convention between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey, respecting measures for the pacification of Syria, signed at Paris in September last. The convention recites that the Sultan, wishing to stop, by prompt and efficacious measures, the effusion of blood in Syria, and to show his firm resolution to establish order and peace among the populations placed under his sovereignty, and the five Powers having offered their active co-operation, which the Sultan had accepted, the high contracting parties had agreed upon the following articles:—1. A body of European troops, which may be increased to 12,000 men, shall be sent to Syria to contribute towards the re-establishment of tranquillity. 2. The Emperor of the French agrees to furnish immediately the half of this body of troops; if it should become necessary to raise its effective force to 12,000 the high Powers would come to an understanding with the Porte without delay by the ordinary course of diplomacy upon the designation of those among them who would have to provide it. 3. The commander-in-chief of the expedition will, on his arrival, enter into communication with the commissioner extraordinary of the Porte, in order to concert all the measures required by circumstances, and to take up the positions which there may be occasion to occupy in order to fulfil the objects of the present convention. 4. The five Powers promise to maintain sufficient naval forces to contribute towards the success of the common efforts for the re-establishment of tranquillity on the coast of Syria. 5. The high parties, convinced that such a period will be sufficient to attain the object of pacification which they have in view, fix at six months the duration of the occupation of the European troops in Syria. 6. The Sublime Porte undertakes to facilitate, as far as lies in her power, the furnishing supplies and provisions for the expeditionary corps.

SOME MALVERSATIONS are reported to have been discovered on the part of one of the officials of the East and West India Docks, but they are believed to refer to past transactions, which will not alter the present or future pecuniary position of the company.

N.B. Medicines forwarded to all parts of the world on receipt of post-office orders, to be made payable to W. Buchan and Co.

London: Printed and Published at the Office, 2, Catherine-street,
in the Parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, in the County of Middlesex,
by THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1831.